



Photo: Hackney Archives collections

Queen Elizabeth II visits Hackney as part of her Silver Jubilee celebrations on 6 July 1977. This summer, residents can hold a street party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

THE Council is supporting residents to bring their communities together in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, during

a four-day bank holiday weekend, from 2 to 5 June. Residents can now apply to organise a non-commercial street party, which temporarily

closes the road to traffic, so that neighbours can get to know each other and celebrate Hackney's cultural diversity. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

celebrations mark 70 years since Queen Elizabeth II first ascended the throne as Monarch and Head of the Commonwealth – a milestone

no other monarch has reached. For more info on what else Hackney is doing to celebrate, and a guide to how to hold a street party, see pages 16-17.

STREETS AHEAD

A QUARTER of people in Hackney report walking or cycling more following the introduction of new low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) and School Streets, a poll of residents has found.

The 19 new LTNs and 40 School Streets are part of the Council's plans to rebuild a greener Hackney in the aftermath of the pandemic – and encourage people to walk, shop and cycle more locally.

A poll of 812 residents, carried out by independent polling organisation, Opinion Research Services, has found that 25 per cent of respondents, who knew about nearby LTNs that affect them, said that the new schemes have meant they have been encouraged to walk or cycle more,

with 30 per cent saying they drive less as a result of the changes.

The polling shows:

- 26 per cent of people say they're walking or running more, 64 per cent say this hasn't changed, and nine per cent say they're walking less;
- 24 per cent of people say they're cycling more, 61 per cent say this hasn't changed and 15 per cent say they're cycling less;
- 30 per cent of respondents report that they are encouraged to drive less as a result of these changes, 53 per cent say they drive about the same and 17 per cent say they drive more;
- 13 per cent of people report being encouraged to drive less. This shifts when looking at those who own a car, with 23 per cent of those who own one car saying

they are encouraged to drive less, and 21 per cent saying they are encouraged to drive more.

The polling also showed support for the aims of the rebuilding a greener Hackney programme. Two thirds of respondents said they agreed with the Council's aim to 'rebuild a greener Hackney that protects communities from increases in traffic, supports people to make healthier local journeys, prioritises public transport for those who need it, and creates cleaner, greener streets for everyone to enjoy'.

There was also a clear majority support for the Council's 40 new School Streets, where traffic is banned outside the school gates at opening and closing times, with 72 per cent wanting

at least some School Streets to be made permanent.

Opinion on LTNs was evenly divided: with 48 per cent wanting at least some to continue and 47 per cent wanting them removed.

Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm, said: "The news that people are walking and cycling more as a direct result of these changes is incredible.

"This was the number one aim of our plans to rebuild a greener Hackney – with the cleaner air, healthier lives and better neighbourhoods this brings.

"We do know that there is still more work to be done to get these schemes right, and that's why we'll continue to work with residents on this."

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Hackney

Hackney Today is produced by **Communications, Culture and Engagement at London Borough of Hackney, Hackney Town Hall E8 1EA.**
E-mail: htnews@hackney.gov.uk

Editor
Sappho Lauder

Tel: 020 8356 3275
E: htnews@hackney.gov.uk

Hackney Today is published by the London Borough of Hackney. It has a print run of 108,000 copies and is delivered free to every home and business in the borough. The Council uses it to communicate public service information to residents. It is published fortnightly in order to carry statutory advertising, such as planning and traffic notices, which is cheaper for the taxpayer than using another local paper. The law does not allow for statutory notices to be published solely online or in a less frequent publication.

The paper's official, door-to-door delivery is 91,843 copies per issue, Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC)

Paid for advertising is carried in the paper to keep costs to a minimum. We reserve the right to refuse advertising. The products and services advertised in this paper do not carry the endorsement of Hackney Today or London Borough of Hackney

Printed by Trinity Mirror

Distributed by London Letterbox Marketing

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Cyberattack backlog is being cleared

BACKLOGS and delays in areas such as housing benefit claims, Council Tax change-of-circumstance, and land searches are being cleared at pace as Council staff continue to work tirelessly to recover from the impact of the criminal cyberattack on the Council's IT systems. We're sorry these backlogs continue.

The sophisticated attack on 11 October 2020 left many systems unavailable for Council staff to deliver essential services – with months of work to safely recover them. The National Crime Agency continues to investigate the incident.

All Council services are now available for residents, but teams are still working to clear any remaining backlogs.

The Council is prioritising residents in greatest need – including payments of housing benefits and other financial support.

Housing benefits

THE backlog of new claims for housing benefits has now been cleared and Council staff are continuing to progress the outstanding changes of circumstance.

Most of these will be completed shortly, but a smaller number of more complex cases will take longer to complete. Council teams will continue to prioritise cases where there might be a risk to tenancies and are working hard to ensure that annual rent increases are updated.

Council Tax

THE Council Tax team is processing outstanding updates from the backlog of work and issuing Council Tax bills to reflect changes that have been submitted.

Some residents will be struggling with financial difficulties and the Council will do everything it can to support people with paying



their bills, for example, through payment plans.

Along with all other councils, staff are working hard to process the Government's Council Tax rebate to support people affected by rising energy costs. Residents can help by registering for Direct Debit (see p3) to make payments directly to their accounts.

Land searches

THE team is close to completing the outstanding land searches requests and expects those to be finished shortly.

Recovery

THE Council has made investments in the recovery process, accelerating the plans that were in progress before the attack, to migrate to cloud based systems.

The Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: "The sheer scale and devastation of the attack – and our inability to access many of our IT systems and databases for months – meant that some people continue to be caught up in delays and backlogs. We're sorry."

Standing with Ukraine

THE Council's cabinet members have condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Hundreds have been killed and more than two million have fled since troops entered the country on 24 February.

Cabinet members stood in solidarity with the Ukrainian people by lighting the Town Hall atria blue and yellow (the colours of the Ukrainian flag).

The Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, together

with Cllr Carole Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources, wrote to the Home and Foreign Secretaries about enabling local authorities to support and welcome people who seek refuge in the UK.

Mayor Glanville said: "So many of our diverse communities in Hackney will have been through a similar experience in their diaspora stories. "I would hope that Hackney's approach of solidarity and sanctuary is



extended to our Ukrainian brothers and sisters."

Mayor Glanville has also been making ribbons in exchange for donations to charities, and has so far raised over £1,000.

Hackney schools have been invited to make ribbons to sell, with the necessary supplies of pins and ribbons provided by

the Speaker's Office.

The Speaker of Hackney, Cllr Michael Desmond, is holding a reception in support of Ukraine on 15 March as part of the borough's response to show solidarity.

Want to donate? For a list of charities helping Ukraine, visit: bit.ly/ukraine-charities



Set up a Direct Debit to pay your Council Tax and you can be first to receive the £150 Council Tax rebate straight into your bank account

Getting your rebate

£150 Council Tax payment is available to most households

HOUSEHOLDS in Hackney are being urged to set up Direct Debits with the Council to receive a Council Tax rebate that will help families manage the rising costs of living.

People who pay Council Tax by Direct Debit – which is a safe, simple and quick way to pay – will be first to receive their £150 payment directly into their bank accounts, starting from next

month. This will be one payment per household.

Those who do not pay by Direct Debit will be contacted by the Council and invited to make a claim – meaning that they will wait longer to receive the money.

Households in Council Tax bands A to D are set to benefit from the rebate, which does not have to be repaid.

The Council can also

provide discretionary support to vulnerable households who may not qualify for the £150 Council Tax rebate.

This includes people on low incomes in Council Tax bands E to H. The rebate will not be paid to second homes and empty premises.

How to set up a Direct Debit

TO set up your Direct Debit payment, visit: **hackney.gov.uk/paying-your-council-tax**



TO claim for a Council Tax reduction, visit: **hackney.gov.uk/council-tax-reduction-claim**

News in brief



Photo: Alan Denney

Be considerate during Purim

PURIM, an annual Jewish festival, is set to take place from 16 to 17 March.

The streets around Stamford Hill are therefore likely to be busier than normal as people celebrate.

Stamford Hill is a residential area and for many residents the day after Purim is a normal working day.

To make sure everyone has a safe and happy time, the Council is asking people to turn any sound systems off and keep the noise down after 10pm during this holiday period.

Cashiers office reopens

THE Council's cashiers office is set to reopen at a new address, on Wilton Way, on 18 March.

The cashiers offer a payment service using the self pay kiosks. Here, residents can pay their Council Tax, housing rent, business rates and service charges – as well as payments for licensing, planning and registrars.

The cashiers will no longer accept any payments for parking services – including parking fines – or payments for parking permits and vouchers.

The office will be open from 18 March, from 9am to 5pm, at Christopher Addison House, 72 Wilton Way, E8 1BJ.



Register to vote by post for local elections on 5 May

LOCAL elections of councillors to Hackney Council and for the Mayor of Hackney are taking place on 5 May, and residents are being encouraged to register now in order to vote by post.

Voting by post is a quick, easy and secure alternative to voting at a polling station. To qualify for a postal vote you must first be registered to vote. You will need to register

to vote if you have recently turned 18, and you will need to re-register to vote if you have recently moved home or changed your name.

The deadline for making a new application for a postal vote for this election is 5pm on 19 April.

Previous postal voters can return the form sent directly to them.

Postal votes are sent in batches depending upon the date you applied.

Existing postal votes and new applications up to 13 March will be sent by First Class Royal Mail on around 21 April.

Applications after this date and up until the deadline date of 19 April will be despatched later by First Class Royal Mail between 25 to 27 April.

When applying to vote by post, you must provide your date-of-birth and signature. These are checked against the

completed postal vote pack at an election to keep your vote secure.

Once registered to vote by post, you will receive a postal vote pack around a week before polling day containing your ballot papers. Once you receive your pack, you mark the ballot papers, complete the postal vote pack, and return it to the Council in the pre-paid envelope provided.

The Council is also

encouraging people to ensure they post back their vote in good time, to avoid needing to take it to a polling station on Election Day.

For more information, contact: **electoralservices@hackney.gov.uk**; or call: **020 8356 3232**.

To register to vote, visit: **hackney.gov.uk/registering-to-vote**

To request a postal vote, visit: **hackney.gov.uk/ways-to-vote**



Voting by post is an easy and secure alternative to voting at a polling station

Dear Hackney Resident,

First of all, we want to say thank you.

Thank you to all of the incredible key workers who have saved lives and kept our borough safe.
Thank you to the volunteers, Council staff, businesses and others who gave up their time to help others.

But also – thank you to you.

By following the rules, being sensible and getting vaccinated, you've helped us get to a point where we can begin to consider living with Covid.

But the pandemic is not over and we still have high levels of infection in Hackney.

We are writing now to remind you that Covid-19 is still very real and we are not completely out of this pandemic yet.

So, it's really important that we continue to take measures to keep each other safe and follow public health advice – keeping up all the safe and cautious behaviours we have been practising over the last two years should not be abandoned.

It might not be the law anymore, but it's still the best way to keep yourself and your family safe.

To reduce the spread of this virus, we urge you to continue to wear a mask in indoor or crowded spaces, ventilate indoor areas with fresh air, wash your hands often and regularly clean surfaces that are touched frequently, such as door handles, light switches and TV remote controls.

It's also really important to stay at home for at least five days and reduce your contact with other people where you can, if you have Covid-19 symptoms or have tested positive.

This will allow you time to recover and will also protect others from the virus.

Getting vaccinated remains the single best way to protect yourself from severe illness, hospitalisation and long-term effects of the virus (or long Covid).

Having your complete course of vaccines, including the booster dose(s), will ensure you develop the best possible immunity against Covid-19.

As a Council we remain committed to supporting you to safely live with the virus and keep it at bay in our community. We are continuing to provide guidance and services to help you, particularly those of you at highest risk from Covid-19.

If you need any further information or want to discuss how we can best support you and keep residents safe, please do call us on the Covid-19 helpline: **020 8356 3111**, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Sincerely,



Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney



Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health for Hackney and the City of London

FOLLOWING the Government's 'living with Covid' announcement, from 1 April there will be significant changes. Here's what you need to know:

Vaccinations

VACCINATIONS will remain free and continue to be the single best way to reduce the risk of long Covid, severe illness and hospitalisation.

More information about vaccinations can be found at: hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine

Testing

FROM 1 April Lateral Flow (Rapid) tests and PCR tests will no longer be free and all of Hackney's testing sites and test collection points will be closing.

Tests will be available at a cost from local pharmacies.

Tests remain free until 31 March and residents should utilise this period and continue to test regularly.

When ordering tests online, up until 1 April, you can only order one pack every three days. A pack contains seven tests.

Self-isolation

SELF-ISOLATION is no longer a legal requirement; however if you have tested positive or have Covid-19 symptoms you should follow public health advice and stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where you can.

This will prevent spreading the virus to others, especially those who are more vulnerable.

MORE INFO

More information about all these changes can be found at: hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-support

Living with Covid



The Government's 'living with Covid' announcement means changes to how we will deal with the pandemic, including travel arrangements

Travel

IF YOU are travelling to another country make sure you check the requirements for travel, including testing. For more information, visit: gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Support from the Council

SUPPORT during self-isolation is still available for those who need it and can be accessed by calling the Covid-19 helpline on: 020 8356 3111.

For general advice, call 119. Antiviral treatment will be available for people who have compromised immune systems and are at highest risk.

The Council's test and trace inbox will no longer be active from 1 April. Please do not email this inbox. Instead, call: 119 or visit: nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

CONTINUE to practise these safety measures to reduce the spread of the virus and keep infection rates down:

Get vaccinated: Protect yourself and others;

Ventilate your space: Let fresh air in when meeting indoors;

Wear a face covering: Especially when in crowded spaces;

Stay home: If you're feeling unwell or test positive for Covid;

Wash your hands regularly: For at least 20 seconds.

Covid-19 vaccine available for children aged five plus

CHILDREN aged between five and 11 – who are most at risk of Covid-19 – are now eligible for the vaccine, with all children in that age bracket set to be eligible from next month.

Children aged five to 11 who are in a clinical risk group, or who live with someone who is immunosuppressed, are currently able to get the first dose of the vaccine in line with advice set out by the Joint

Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

There are around 500,000 eligible children in the latest cohort. Eligible children include those with diabetes, immunosuppression, learning disabilities, and other health conditions.

Last month, the JCVI announced that all children aged between five and 11 in England will be offered two

10mg doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine with an interval of at least 12 weeks between doses, from next month.

Parents and guardians should wait for the NHS to contact them for when it is their child's turn to get the vaccine, with local NHS teams already contacting those who are eligible.

For more info, visit: nhs.uk

Vaccination sites in Hackney

FOR anyone over 12 years old:

JOHN SCOTT HEALTH CENTRE
220 Green Lanes,
Woodberry Down, N4 2NU
Wed, Thur, Fri: 9am-6.30pm
Sun: 9.30am-12noon & 2-4pm

BOCKING STREET
3a Bocking Street,

Those over 16 years of age can attend any of the vaccination centres and pharmacies listed on the Council's website: hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine

Hackney Central, E8 3RU
Mon: 9am-6.30pm
Tues: 3pm-6.30pm
Sat: 9am-6.30pm
Sun: 9.30am-12noon & 2-4pm

SPRING HILL PRACTICE
57 Stamford Hill, N16 5SR
Every Sunday until 27 March
10am-4pm

A HOXTON HALL PRODUCTION

HOXTON STREET

Written by OLADIPO AGBOLUAJE and LIL WARREN
Developed and Directed by KARENA JOHNSON
Casting by ANNELIE POWELL CDG



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To apply, follow the QR code and return an Expression of Interest form by 5pm on 3rd May 2022.



For more details of the programme visit bbbc.org.uk/services/enterprise-support/ Email Kim.Hayman@bbbc.org.uk or call 07706 687671



BREATHTAKING dance routines, fabulous feathers, glitz, glamour and booming beats are set to bring the borough's streets alive on 11 September for the return of Hackney Carnival.

After a two-year hiatus of celebrating carnival in person, residents and visitors will once again be able to take part in the festivities in real life.

This year's carnival is already highly anticipated, with many carnival and community groups expected to take part in the parade, with music set to be provided by sound systems and DJs from around the world.

The Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: "I'm thrilled to announce that Hackney Carnival will be back on the borough's streets this September.

"The return of carnival will be a real chance for us to come back together after the pandemic and display the inclusivity and talent that makes Hackney so special.

"I encourage anyone who has ever wanted to be part of it, or who has taken part before, to get involved and help make this our best carnival ever.

"We believe that, with your help, 2022's parade can be our loudest and most colourful



Photos: Aldam Holt/Sean Pollock

Carnival returns!

“The return of carnival will be a real chance for us to come back together”

celebration yet.”

For the past two years residents had the opportunity to experience the carnival collectives and sound systems online, including a gala event at Hackney Empire, live music streams, dance routine videos and workshops.

MORE INFO

To participate in this year's carnival, register your interest before 30 April. To take part, visit: bit.ly/hackney-carnival-take-part

For more information, visit: hackney.gov.uk/carnival



Hackney Carnival is returning to the streets of the borough following a two-year hiatus

News in brief

DYH seeking creative groups

DISCOVER Young Hackney (DYH), the Council's youth arts and culture festival, is calling for local organisations to submit their application to be a part of this year's summer programme. The Council is dedicating £50,000

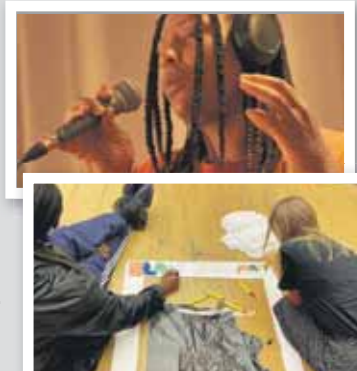
to arts and cultural organisations to produce high-quality, inclusive and creative opportunities for Hackney's young people. Applicants can apply for grants between £500 and £5,000. Cllr Guy Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Housing Regeneration, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy, said: "DYH opens the door for young residents to explore the art forms and the creative industries."

DYH will take place from 1 August to 1 September to develop creativity, development skills, confidence, and provide progression routes into the cultural and creative industries. Applications close on 4 April.

For more info, visit: bit.ly/ApplyDYH

Windrush grants available

THE Council is offering groups grants of up to £2,000 for ideas that celebrate or support the Windrush generation. Ideas include community events or celebrations, educational activities, social justice or legal workshops, public awareness campaigns, or creative projects that merge the Government's Windrush Compensation Scheme support with artistic ideas. Applications close on 18 April. To apply, visit: bit.ly/hackney-windrush-grants



HAF we got news for you: join in Easter fun

THE Council has teamed up with a number of schools and community services to offer a range of food support and activities as part of the Government-funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.

From 4 to 18 April Hackney pupils in receipt of free school meals can attend numerous Easter holiday clubs for free. Some venues are also offering paid-for schemes for pupils

not on free school meals.

There will be food, sports activities, arts and drama, mentoring, healthy eating and nutrition tutorials set out across various locations in the borough.

Footballer Marcus Rashford, who has helped to promote the HAF programme with a short film, said: "I know only too well that the holidays can be a really difficult time for families who are struggling.

"It's such a weight off

their shoulders to know that there is a safe space for their children to go, where their minds can be stimulated, and where they are guaranteed at least one meal a day."

Anna Taylor, CEO of the Food Foundation, added: "The pandemic has hit the most vulnerable and disadvantaged the



hardest, with food poverty at the heart of the difficulties for many families.

"It's absolutely crucial that we are supporting our young people so that they can overcome these challenges and thrive."

Food provision and activities are inclusive of all children and young people,



including those who may have a disability or who have special educational needs. However, some activities may not be suitable for some children.

To see where your nearest HAF programme is, and to get a detailed schedule of events for each location, contact providers directly at: bit.ly/Hackney-Easter-HAF



Lower bills, cleaner energy

Thinking about solar panels but not sure where to start?

Solar Together has launched in Hackney – helping homeowners generate their own clean energy and save on their electricity bills by making solar panels more affordable and more accessible.

Join our group-buying scheme for solar panels

Find out more and register your interest before 15 March 2022

 solartogether.co.uk/hackney

 **Hackney**



THE Council has celebrated the success of its education system in Hackney with a publication that outlines how it went from being one of the worst performing boroughs in the country to the best.

'Educational Success: The Hackney Picture' focuses on how the Council has played a critical role in the turnaround of education in the borough and how different partners have contributed in supporting schools to consistently achieve well.

Over the past 20 years, the Council has invested hundreds of millions of pounds in renewing the infrastructure of the majority of educational buildings in Hackney. It has:

- Built or refurbished 11 academies – the latest opened last year;
- Rebuilt or refurbished five Council-maintained secondary schools;
- Rebuilt five Council-maintained primary schools;
- Expanded or refurbished 10 Council-maintained primary schools;
- Built three special schools;
- Built four new youth centres.

The Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: "Twenty years ago Hackney had the lowest attainment in the country. Now, we are among the top 10 per cent of all education authorities.

"This transformation is one of the greatest success

Hackney in top 10 per cent of all education services in the country

Top of the class

The Council has played a critical role in transforming attainment levels in the borough

stories of public policy in the country, and has been achieved through collaboration between the Council and every education setting in the borough. I want to thank our wonderful schools' staff – past and present – for everything they've done to make this happen.

"That's why we stand firmly against the Government's ongoing pursuit of a forced academisation agenda for schools, in which schools are made to become academies overseen by independent sponsors or trusts and accountable only to the Government.

"We know from our own

“ We stand firmly against the Government's ongoing pursuit of a forced academisation agenda for schools ”

engagement that residents are against this too.”

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care, added: "We believe that a strong network of schools acting together, and bound by a central education service like Hackney's, works best for children, including our vulnerable.

"We are able to work in

partnership, in areas like wellbeing and health of local children, and provide overarching support in a way settings and schools are not empowered or mandated to do in isolation.”

MORE INFO

For more information, and to read the full report, visit: education.hackney.gov.uk/educational-success

Photo: Sean Pollock

News in brief

Music awards hit the right note

SOME of the best young musicians in Hackney came together this month to display their talents at the Mayor's Music Awards prize giving ceremony at Hackney Town Hall. The annual awards, set up by the former Mayor of Hackney and now championed by current Mayor, Philip Glanville, celebrates the best music programmes and most promising musicians in the borough.

All winners are given between £1,000 to £2,000 to help with their musical learning. This year, for the first time, there were two new award categories celebrating the musical learning of children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

The SEND awards are named after former teacher and Hackney councillor Geoff Taylor, who passed away in 2019. The winners of this year's awards were:

Excellence in Music Education Practice

Primary: Rushmore Primary School, E5

Secondary: The Bridge Academy, E2

Instrument Fund for Ensemble Development

Primary: Daubeney Primary School, E5

St John the Baptist CE Primary School, N1

Secondary: City of London Academy, Shoreditch Park, N1

Pupil Award for Musical Achievement in Instrumental Learning

Daubeney Primary School: Rachel Alves, Piano

Mandeville Primary School, E5: Josiah Furlonge, Percussion

Clapton Girls' Academy, E5: Jenny Xue, Violin

The City Academy, Hackney, E9: David Ilesemi, Percussion

Geoff Taylor Special Project Award (SEND)

Ickburgh School, E9

Geoff Taylor SEND Pupil Award

Ickburgh School:
David Oyebanjo,
Bass Guitar

For more information about the awards or the Music Service Gala, email: musicservice@hackney.gov.uk
To watch the awards, visit: bit.ly/MMA_2022



Expanding SEND provision for students in the borough

NEW school places and state-of-the-art facilities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) have opened across the borough as part of the Council's ambitions to rapidly improve and expand specialist provision.

The Council has created 84 new places in order to

better serve the growing number of students who need specialist teaching and support in Hackney and reduce their need to travel to suitable schools in other areas. These are:

- 50 new post-16 places at a specially built site at The Garden School, which opened at the beginning of the year;

- 14 new places at the expanded Ickburgh School, created last year;
- 10 new places for students with social, emotional and mental health needs at Gainsborough Primary School, created last year;
- 10 new places for students with autistic spectrum condition at

Queensbridge Primary School, created in 2020.

Children learn from specialist teachers and a dedicated curriculum, while remaining a core part of their school communities and accessing activities with their fellow students where appropriate.

The Council needs to find

another 300 places for children with additional needs, and is set to work with schools where there are falling pupil numbers to expand SEND places.

For more information, visit: education.hackney.gov.uk

Ickburgh School, E9
Photos: Avanti Architects/
Daniel Shearing





TWO more low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) have been retained in Hackney, with some changes, after reductions in traffic, overall improvements in air quality and an increase in cycling in the areas.

London Fields and Hackney Downs LTNs were introduced in September 2020, and have been closely monitored since.

London Fields LTN features six traffic filters (planters in the road that allow only cyclists, waste and emergency vehicles to pass through), bus gates – which permit buses to pass through – on Richmond Road and Pritchard's Road, and turning restrictions at Greenwood Road, Laburnum Street and Queensbridge Road.

Following the LTN's introduction, overall traffic levels in the London Fields area have improved, with traffic down inside the LTN – including by 8,000 vehicles a day on Richmond Road.

Air quality is predicted to have improved at 147 of 169 modelled locations in the area, following analysis by air quality consultants AECOM.

Cycling rates have also increased significantly, with cycling up by between 11 per cent and 57 per cent on Richmond Road and Middleton Road.

On boundary roads, traffic was down on Queensbridge Road, and on some parts of Whiston



Photos: Gary Manthine

London Fields and Hackney Downs low traffic neighbourhoods have been closely monitored since they were introduced in September 2020

Road, Kingsland Road and Mare Street.

Traffic was up on Dalston Lane and Graham Road, and on some parts of Mare Street, Kingsland Road and Whiston Road, which the Council is continuing to monitor. New live traffic monitors have been installed on Dalston Lane and Graham Road.

Overall east-west traffic in the area has decreased by 11.6 per cent, showing some traffic is avoiding the area completely.

Following feedback during the consultation period, Blue Badge holders will be permitted to drive through the Richmond Road bus gates from 21 March.

Hackney Downs LTN has also been retained. It features six traffic filters and a bus gate on Downs Road, which also permits buses to pass through.

Following the LTN's introduction, overall traffic and air quality levels in the Hackney Downs area have improved, with traffic down by 40 per cent inside

the LTN, and air quality improvements at 84 of 118 locations.

The total number of vehicles on boundary roads has not changed significantly, increasing by just 49 vehicles a day, however, as an average of percentages across the roads, an increase of seven per cent was observed.

This demonstrates that relative increases have occurred on specific roads rather than boundary roads as a whole.

Following feedback from residents about increases in traffic on Northwold Road, the Council will be engaging with residents to develop proposals to mitigate these. This could range from width restriction to restrict heavy goods vehicle access, a major contributor to pollution levels, to a new traffic filter.

The Council is also set to permit Blue Badge holders to drive through part of the LTN (the Downs Road bus gate).

During the engagement period, some residents asked that restrictions be added or removed on some roads, such as Benthall Road, Jenner Road, Queensdown Road and Cricketfield Road.

The Council is investigating the issues, and will develop options with residents, consult on those options and then implement further changes if approved. Monitoring of the traffic flows and air quality in the LTN area will continue throughout this period.

London Fields and Hackney Downs have joined Homerton, Hoxton West, Gore Road and Upton Road to become permanent LTNs.

MORE INFO

For more information, visit: hackney.gov.uk/menu#low-traffic-neighbourhoods

Rushmore planters help change the face of Millfields Park

PUPILS from Rushmore Primary School, E5, have helped plant 780 trees on Council land in Millfields Park.

Formerly used by National Grid as part of their depot the site, to the east of the southern section of Millfields Park, was returned to grassland last year, with trees added to improve the area's character and biodiversity.

The tree planting sessions, which included a mix of willow and native woodland trees for coppicing and a willow bank planted across the 1.5 acre stretch of land, were led by the Tree Musketeers, Millfields Park User Group and the Council.

A variety of native and non-native species are being planted in order to future-proof its planting

by building-in diversity and resilience to a changing climate.

The trees were supplied by English Woodlands and The Willow Bank, as part of the Council's ambitious Hackney-wide tree planting programme, which is helping to isolate carbon, filter air, mitigate local flooding by improving drainage, and cool streets during the hot weather.

Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years, Parks and Play, said: "It's exciting to see how many trees are being planted around the borough – part of our ambitious commitment to greening the grey in Hackney."

"Not only do they help to tackle the climate crisis, but they also contribute to health and wellbeing and



promote wildlife. I'd like to thank our partners and all the incredible volunteers and schoolchildren for coming out to learn about the benefits of trees and for sharing in the joy of planting them together."



Rushmore Primary School pupils planting at Millfields Park



School Streets made permanent

TWENTY-NINE trial School Streets, which are supporting 12,500 children across Hackney walk, cycle and scoot to school, are set to be retained permanently by the Council.

Introduced in September 2020, the School Streets close roads outside schools at opening and closing times and join nine others in being retained.

Hackney now has the country's largest School Streets programme – with 84 per cent of the borough's primary schools and 15 per cent of secondary schools covered by a School Street.

In making the trial School Streets permanent, the Council considered feedback from residents, alongside polling and traffic and air quality monitoring.



Photos: Gary Manhine

In polling of residents released this month, more than seven in 10 residents wanted to see Hackney's School Streets made permanent.

Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm, said: "We're proud to be leading the way on School Streets, with more in Hackney than anywhere else in the country. The results are plain to see at any school: kids walking, cycling or scooting to school, enjoying clean air and living more

active lives."

At the Council's five pilot School Streets, introduced between 2017 and 2019, the number of children walking to school increased by up to 30 per cent and the number of children cycling to school increased by up to 51 per cent.

MORE INFO

Find out more about School Streets at: hackney.gov.uk/school-streets



Politicians joined Hackney schoolchildren for their morning commutes: The borough has the country's largest School Streets programme – with 84 per cent of the borough's primary schools and 15 per cent of secondary schools covered by a School Street

News in brief

Assembly on climate crisis

THE Council held its first ever citizens' assembly on the climate crisis earlier this month.

Around 50 residents joined the event, which was hosted by Cllr Coban and Mayor Glanville, pictured above. Discussion focused on how the Council and residents can work together to tackle emissions from the things we buy and from heating and powering our homes. Cllr Coban said: "It was a fantastic conversation at our first ever citizens' assembly, with so many diverse voices including private renters, people living in social housing and young people all discussing ways in which we can help work together to tackle the climate crisis and rebuild a greener Hackney."

The Council is set to consult with residents on its climate action plans later this year.

Visit: hackney.gov.uk/rebuilding-greener



Thank you for recycling more

FOOD, paper and plastic recycling is up – and waste is down – since the Council switched to fortnightly waste collections last year.

Since the changes were introduced, on-street properties have thrown away 2,500 tonnes less than they did the previous year, and recycled 750 more tonnes of food waste, and 600 tonnes more dry recycling such as paper, plastic, glass and cardboard.

Overall, the recycling rate at on-street properties has increased by nearly five per cent to 45.4 per cent.

Recycling has remained weekly to encourage as many people as possible to recycle more and waste less.



Order recycling bins and bags at: hackney.gov.uk/order-recycling-products and find out what can be recycled at: hackney.gov.uk/your-recycling/#what

Shoreditch Park's £2m revamp project gets underway

WORK to refurbish Shoreditch Park – including a new beach volleyball court, a multi-use games area, table tennis tables and an outdoor gym – has begun.

The £2 million project, which was approved at the Council's planning committee last year following two years of consultation and engagement with local

people – in which nearly 2,000 people told the Council what they would like to see – also include a refurbished children's play area, improvements to the informal sports pitch area and work to enhance the park's accessibility, biodiversity and sustainability.

A new grass area, next to New North Road, has been reseeded and a wildflower

area has been planted near the playground.

Work will start on refurbishing the sports pitch from 21 March, with improved drainage and reseeded.

Next month, work will begin to refurbish the park's playground, with a new play area next to Rushton Street.

The final phase, taking place between July and

October, will include work to refurbish Dorothy Thurtle Gardens – with new planting, pathways and a play trail.

To find out more about the Shoreditch Park project, visit: hackney.gov.uk/shoreditch-park

• See pages 18-19 to have your say on design proposals to improve four more children's play areas in Hackney.



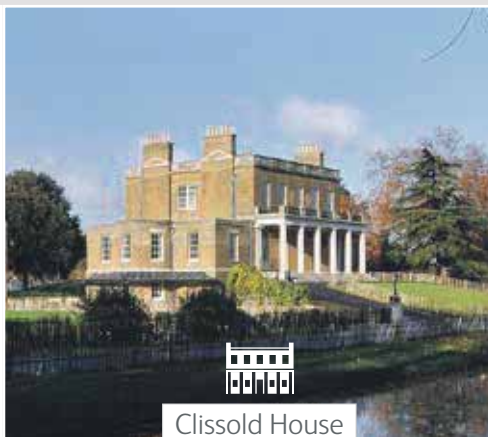
Plans for the redevelopment of Shoreditch Park

An idyllic setting for a special occasion

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The Glasshouse
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Top tip:

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If you are unsure about any items, want to check your collection day or order recycling bags, visit:
www.hackney.gov.uk/recycling



Clean up after your dog

Maximum fine £1000



Report dog fouling:

Visit: www.hackney.gov.uk/dog-fouling
Email: enforcementsupport@hackney.gov.uk
Call: 020 8356 4504



A NEW multi-use sports facility for young people in Hackney Wick opened last month.

From the design and planning process to the naming of the facility, young people from the local area have been involved in every aspect of the project.

The Eastway facility, located on part of the site of the former Eastway Baths, includes a multi-use games area, studio and classroom for fitness and learning, a courtyard and an office.

It is free to use and open after school during term time and throughout the day in the school holidays.

A programme of activities is set to be delivered by Young Hackney, the Council's early help service for people aged between six and 19 (or up to 25 for people with special education needs and/or disabilities), and local community organisations.

The space has been adapted to offer a range of activities, from practising yoga to film screenings, gardening or socialising.

The Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: "Hackney Wick has gone through a significant period of transition over the decade since the Olympics.

"As the pace of change shows no signs of slowing down it is imperative –



Photos: Sean Pollack

East is the way

Eastway: A new sports facility for young people opened in Hackney Wick last month

“The launch of Eastway reaffirms the Council's commitment to using our assets in the area to invest in the community”

especially in this 10th anniversary year – the Council listens to local young people, responds to their needs, and ensures local people in the community are better able to benefit from these changes and not left behind.

"The launch of Eastway reaffirms the Council's commitment to using our

assets in the area to invest in the community and utilising sport to bring about positive change for young people."

Eastway is managed by Young Hackney and developed in collaboration with local young people as part of the Council's response to findings in the 'Hackney Wick Through Young Eyes' report.

This identified a lack of places and quality facilities for them to engage in youth activities, stay active, and participate in sport.

The £850,000 facility was funded by the Council, London Legacy Development Corporation's Neighbourhood Priorities Fund and the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund.

MORE INFO

To find out more visit hackney.gov.uk/eastway

News in brief

Superheroes wear hoodies: Documentary on Rise 365

A SHORT documentary that follows the lives of young people – and their mentors – who make up youth organisation Rise 365, has been shown at Hackney Picturehouse.

'Superheroes Wear Hoodies', directed by Jason Osbourne, explores the journey young people who live on the Kingsmead Estate, E9, – 'somewhere that people wouldn't go' – have taken during the pandemic.

At the end of the viewing, on 17 February, Mayor Glanville presented every young person there with an 'Outstanding Contribution to Community' award.

Joycien Buffong, Rise 365 founder, said: "At the beginning of the pandemic a lot of youth provision services shut down and schools were shut down. I looked at ways that I could support young people, as well as support the local community, with the food response programme."

For the first six months of the pandemic Joycien, Kiaran – Made Up Collective founder – and a dedicated group of young people cooked meals for their local community. They then set up a community shop, which still runs today. Kiaran said: "For six months we cooked.

We cooked 1,300 meals twice a week. The young people would come and pack and they would deliver it to the estate. If a young person is bringing you nourishment, you can't help but change your viewpoint."

For more info, visit: rise365.co.uk



Photos: Nadia Meli



Photo: Brunel Johnson

Children design Abney Park Chapel's windows

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Hackney have helped design new stained glass windows for Abney Park Chapel, as part of the cemetery's wider restoration project.

Pupils from Jubilee and William Patten primary schools worked with local artist Piotr Frac to depict the cemetery's changing biodiversity through the year, with the chapel's four rose windows representing a different season.

Piotr said: "The workshops were fantastic

experiences in which the children designed and drew things that they had seen and that had inspired them from a tour of the cemetery.

"These drawings included insects, plants, trees, gravestones and other natural and manmade aspects of the park.

"The children took great joy in not only learning about the park's history and geography, but also contributing to its future."

The four striking designs, which are set to be installed

in spring, form part of the £5 million project to refurbish Abney Park Cemetery, funded by the Council, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund.

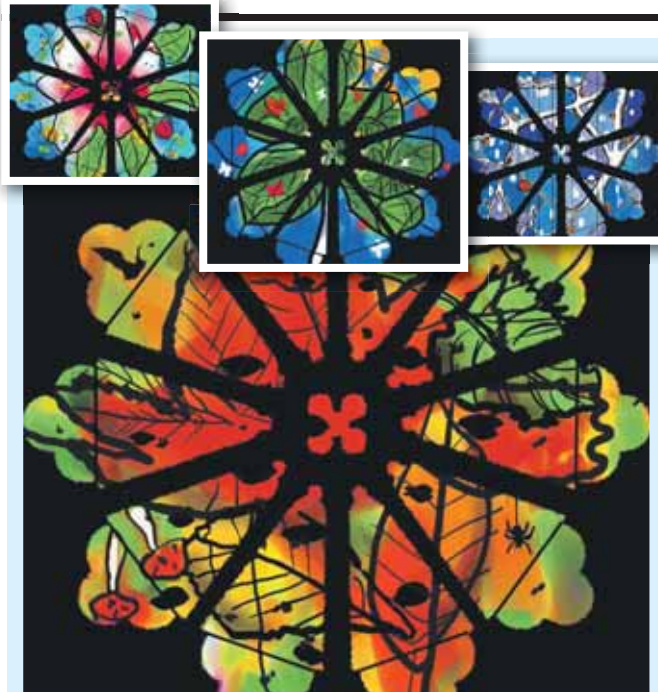
As well as restoring the chapel, which will enable it to be used for weddings, concerts and other community events, work in the cemetery include creating a new building to provide a learning space, a new cafe and public toilets

and refurbishing existing buildings to provide offices.

The Grade II listed chapel was built in 1840, designed by William Hosking, and built by John Jay. It is Europe's oldest non-denominational Gothic-style chapel. It fell into disrepair from the 1960s, and the Council began its restoration in 2017.

All works on the site are set to be completed in spring next year.

For more visit: hackney.gov.uk/abney-park



Mulberry

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SCAN ME





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The results of the public consultation on the future of Hackney's libraries are set to be released later this year

KEEP UP TO DATE

THE winning entries from a schools' competition to reimagine Hackney's libraries for 2025 are now on display in libraries across the borough.

Some 1,200 Hackney schoolchildren took part in a contest to create a poem, poster or model to show how the borough's libraries could look like in the future and how they could be improved.

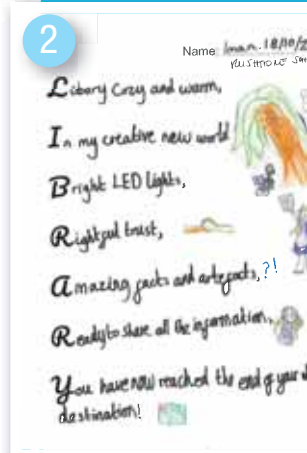
Immediate Theatre provided fun and engaging workshops with schools as a way of getting feedback from pupils and teachers on their views on the future of Hackney's libraries.

Rushmore Primary School, E5, included the highest number of entries to claim a prize of a £150 voucher to buy books.

Clapton Girls' Academy, E5, also received a £150 voucher for the creativity shown by art and design students in Years 7 and 8 who crafted beautiful models of future libraries.

Annie Taylor, librarian at Clapton Girls' Academy, said: "It has been so inspiring to see our students quite literally bring to life their visions for their dream libraries, with amazing 3D models and artwork."

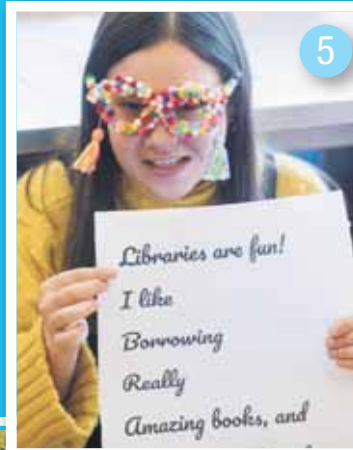
Individual book tokens were also given to students Kaishiya, Adesewa and Ella May from Clapton Girls' for their library models; to Ibrahim from Sebright Primary School, E2, for best poster; and Coco and Iman from Rushmore for best



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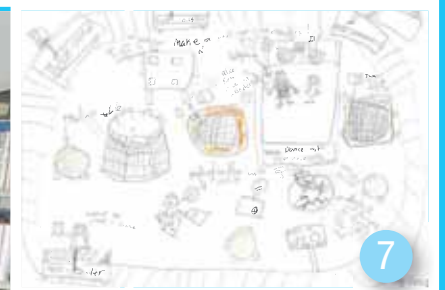


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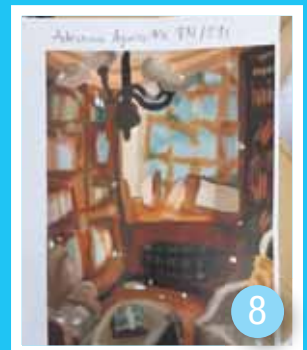


Book to the future

Hackney schoolchildren respond to a borough wide competition to reimagine the libraries' future



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drawing and poem.

The artwork competitions formed part of the Council's wider library services review, which saw over 8,500 residents respond to the libraries' engagement campaign through events,

questionnaires, discussion groups and on online.

Cllr Guy Nicholson, Hackney's Deputy Mayor for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy, said: "The recent borough-

wide consultation was the opportunity to reflect on the state of our libraries and think about what they could offer in the future in an increasingly digital and multi-channel world.

"With the future in mind

it has been fantastic to hear from so many schools about what they would like to see in their library in 2025."

The Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, added: "It is clear that our libraries are important to many people across Hackney; to families with young children, to young people looking for study space and resources, for community groups, as cultural hubs, and as places to learn and to bring people together.

"They already do so much, but there is potential to do more in these precious community spaces, and to make them more relevant and accessible to residents."

Dalston CLR James Library celebrates its 10 year anniversary

DALSTON CLR James Library celebrated its 10 year anniversary last month. The library was opened in February 2012 by the former Mayor of Hackney, Jules Pipe CBE, and the writers Nick Hornby and John Hegarty.

Mayor Glanville went down to the library on 28 February to celebrate. He said: "The Council was rightly proud of the fact that while libraries up and

down the country were closing Hackney was continuing to invest in the service and opening a brand new state-of-the-art library.

"Ten years later, our commitment to Hackney's libraries is as strong as ever. As one of the only councils in the country to have kept all its libraries open after more than a decade of austerity, we have recently refurbished Clapton

and Shoreditch libraries, and have started a programme of work to repair and refurbish Stoke Newington Library.

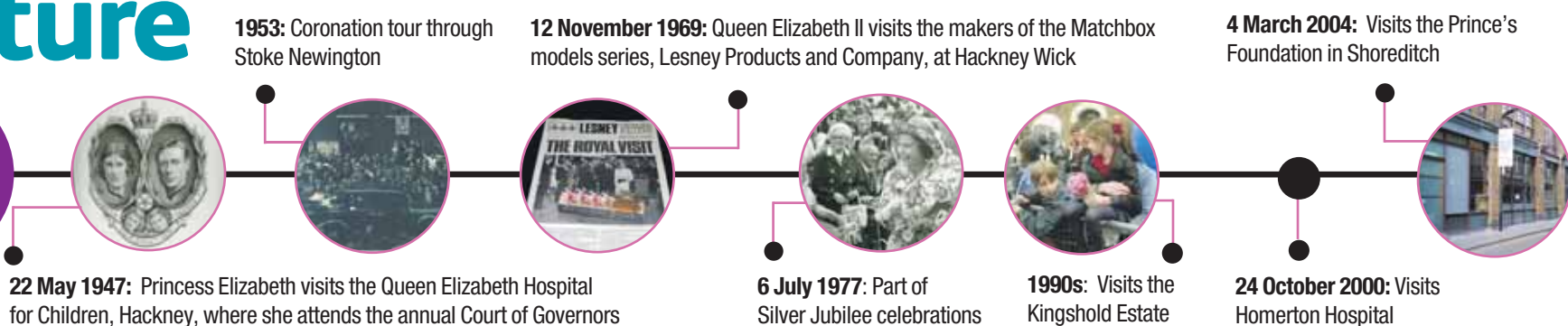
"We are making investment plans for Stamford Hill and Homerton, and exploring

options for a new library and community hub at Woodberry Down."



1. Rushmore pupils show off their Hackney libraries' design competition certificates; 2. Iman's winning poem; 3. Clapton Girls' students with their beautifully crafted library models; 4. Immediate Theatre with Baden Powell Primary School pupils and Cllr Nicholson; 5. Immediate Theatre's Professor Bookblast; 6. Kaishiya's reimagined library; 7. Coco's winning drawing; 8. Adesewa's library model; 9. Ibrahim's winning poster; 10. Ella May's model

feature

THE QUEEN
IN HACKNEY
TIMELINE

TO CELEBRATE 70 years since Queen Elizabeth II first ascended the throne – a milestone no other monarch has reached – the Council is supporting residents to hold a street party.

Residents can now apply to organise a free, non-commercial street party – which temporarily closes the road to traffic – to bring communities together and celebrate Hackney's cultural diversity.

Hackney has a strong history of hosting street parties – as can be seen in Ron Gibson's amazing Queen's Silver Jubilee celebration photos from 1977 (pictured), held by Hackney Archives.

Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee are set to take place during a four-day bank holiday weekend, from 2 to 5 June.

There is usually no problem in obtaining permission to close quiet residential streets, but the Council is likely to refuse permission to close major routes (classed A and B roads), bus routes, or one-way streets where it thinks doing so will cause too much disruption to surrounding traffic or

impede emergency vehicles.

The Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: "I hope as many residents as possible can join us in throwing their own street parties on the Jubilee bank holiday weekend so we can help Hackney celebrate this momentous occasion in style."

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations take place in June and you can join in the fun!

By Royal appointment

ROYAL ROOTS! PLANTING TREES

AS part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, Hackney has planted 70 redwood trees in Hackney Marshes to commemorate the 70th day of the 70th year of the Queen's reign.

The sequoia grove of 70 coastal redwood, giant redwood and dawn redwood trees, supports the Council's canopy cover and climate emergency targets and contributes towards the Queen's Green Canopy, a

nationwide tree planting initiative to celebrate the Jubilee. A commemorative plaque to mark the occasion has also been unveiled.

Mayor Glanville, said: "It is fitting that on the 70th day of Her Majesty's 70th year of service we are here to leave a lasting legacy in her honour.

"Queen Elizabeth II is the longest-serving monarch in British history and I am sure many residents will want to



come together to recognise this tremendous milestone."



The Mayor, The Speaker of Hackney and councillors helped plant the redwood trees in Hackney Marshes
Photos: Gary Manhine

PLATE UP! BIG JUBILEE

HACKNEY Council residents are also being offered the chance to apply for funding to bring people together for the Big Lunch.

The Big Lunch is the UK's annual celebration for neighbours and communities. Every year in June, since the idea began in 2009, millions of people get together with neighbours in a nationwide act of community and friendship.

A Big Lunch can be anything from a small gathering in a

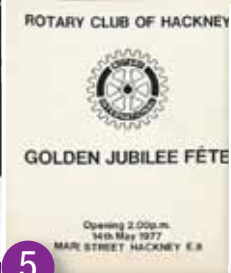
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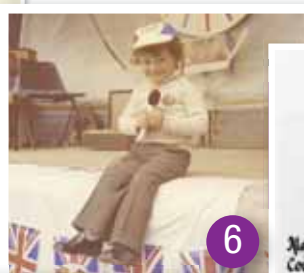
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee four-day bank holiday weekend will take place from 2-5 June



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STREET PARTIES! THE CRITERIA

A SMALL, non-commercial street party must meet the following criteria:

- Fewer than 200 guests invited;
- All guests are associated with the immediate vicinity;
- No alcohol will be on sale (it is okay to serve alcohol free of charge);
- No formal entertainment (incidental entertainment such as music from a stereo is okay as long as you do not disturb others in the community);
- No tickets are sold for the event;
- No food or other merchandise will be on sale (but it is fine to bring food to share with your neighbours);
- No temporary structures (eg stages or marquees).

MORE INFO

To apply for a street party, visit: hackney.gov.uk/street-party

THE BIG LUNCH

park or driveway, to a party with trestle tables in the middle of your street. This year the main emphasis is on the Big Jubilee Lunch, which is set to take place over the bank holiday weekend. Hackney Council is offering grants of up to £500 to enable groups to stage events as part of the Big Lunch initiative. Groups must be inclusive, accessible and benefit all residents. Groups applying

also need to have appropriate safeguarding procedures in place and carry out a risk assessment for the event or activity.

Groups looking to stage a Big Jubilee Lunch event have until 4 April to apply for funding. Visit: hackney.gov.uk/housing-funding-streams



GET CREATIVE! ART COMPETITION

CHILDREN and young people across the borough are being invited to take part in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee art competition, hosted by the Speaker of Hackney, Cllr Michael Desmond.

Platinum Jubilee-themed



street party designs are wanted for bunting, tablecloths, hats and badges.

Submit your design by 20 May to: speaker@hackney.gov.uk

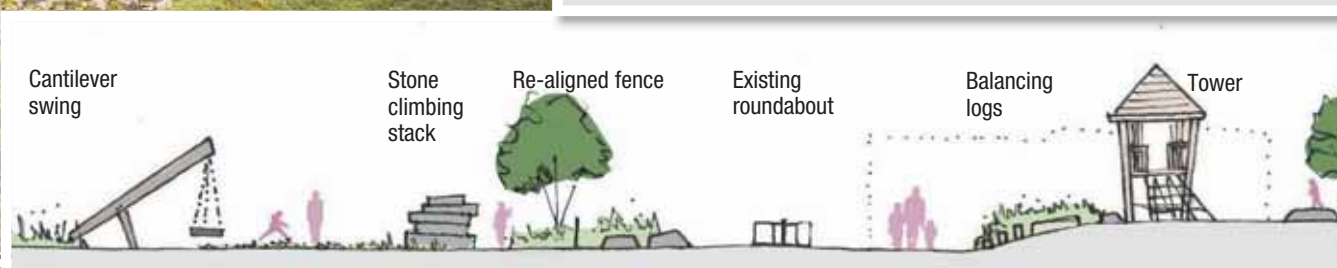
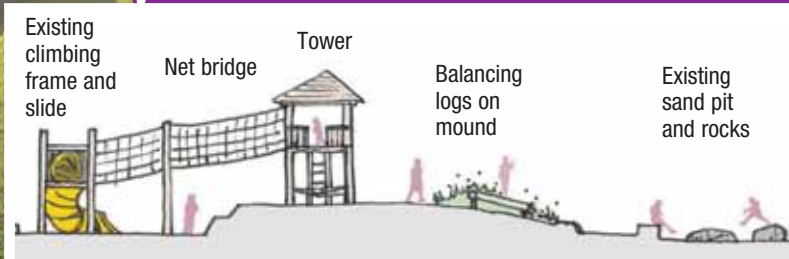
1. The Queen meeting Cllr Harrison and the Mayor on her visit to the borough on 6 July 1977 (Hackney Archives/P7192); 2 & 3. Waiting for the Queen to visit, 1977, (RA Gibson); 4. The Queen meets a young resident during her 1977 visit (Hackney Archives); 5. Fete held by the Rotary Club of Hackney, 14 May 1977 (Hackney Archives); 7. The signed visiting book by the Queen (Hackney Archives); 6, 8, 10, 12 & 13. Hackney Jubilee street parties, July 1977 (all RA Gibson); 9. Meeting residents, 1977 (Hackney Archives); 11. The Queen signing the visiting book during her visit to the borough in 1977. (Hackney Archives, LBH/1/5/2/37); 14. The Queen meeting residents, 1977 (Hackney Archives)

For more information on Hackney Archives, and to view more RA Gibson photos, visit: hackney.gov.uk/archives

feature



Design proposals for Hackney Downs Playground include a more playful landscape and new areas inspired by wild animals and their natural habitats



All to play for!

Have your say on the exciting design proposals to improve four children's playgrounds in Hackney

PLAYGROUNDS in Hackney are set to have a makeover – and residents are invited to have their say on new design proposals.

New designs for play areas in Clapton Common, E5; Hackney Downs, E5; Stonebridge Gardens (also known as Snake Park), E8; and Well Street Common, E9 are now available to view and comment online.

The designs, which form part of a £2 million investment by the Council to improve park play areas across the borough, have been developed using ideas and feedback from children,

young people and families.

This builds on a successful consultation launched last year, which saw the Council taking on feedback from residents – and make changes to design proposals – after consulting on a new splash pad at Clissold Park and six play areas.

Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years,

Parks and Play, said: “We are delighted to offer a rolling programme of play area refurbishment, which kicked off last year with Springfield Park, Clapton Pond, Haggerston Park, Clapton Square, Stoke Newington Common and Butterfield Green.

“This continues with another phase of consultations around

improvements to Clapton Common, Stonebridge Gardens, Hackney Downs and Well Street Common.

“If you use any of these play areas I encourage you to get involved and give us your feedback on the ideas and designs.”

The consultation closes on 31 March. Phase one is set to be completed at the end of the summer and work on phase two is set to begin next year.

MORE INFO

For more information, or to have your say, visit: hackney.gov.uk/playgrounds

Hackney Downs Play Area and Children's Garden E5 8NP

THERE are big plans afoot for Hackney Downs Playground, inspired by wild animals and their habitats (see plans above). Proposals include extending the area of the playground in order to introduce new swings suitable for older children and young people, a new cantilever swing, log climbing frame and trail, new seating and a meadow area to provide a degree of enclosure around the children's play area.



Within the existing playground, plans include a new tower on top of the mound, which is set to link the existing climbing frame by a wobbly bridge, a wide slide, and an area of bark-chip and loose logs to encourage imaginative play. The existing timber climbing structure, swings, roundabout, play mound, shelter with mosaic, enlarged sand pit (with new timber decking and seats around the edges) are set to be retained. At the Hackney Downs Children's Garden (see images on the left), proposals include thinning the dense vegetation between the gardens and the surrounding park to improve visibility and replacing the old benches with new ones. The blue train will be retained.



Clapton Common Playground

E5 9AA

THE current play area is much loved, but some equipment is nearing the end of its life. The Council is proposing to replace the existing climbing frame, add new play equipment – including swings and a roundabout – and landscape it to make it more wildlife friendly (see plans above and below). The Council wants the new equipment to provide the same opportunities for challenging play that the existing climbing frame does, but to also add a new area for imaginative play within the under fives area.



Over fives play area

Under fives play area

Den and loose play

Play trail



Well Street Common Playground

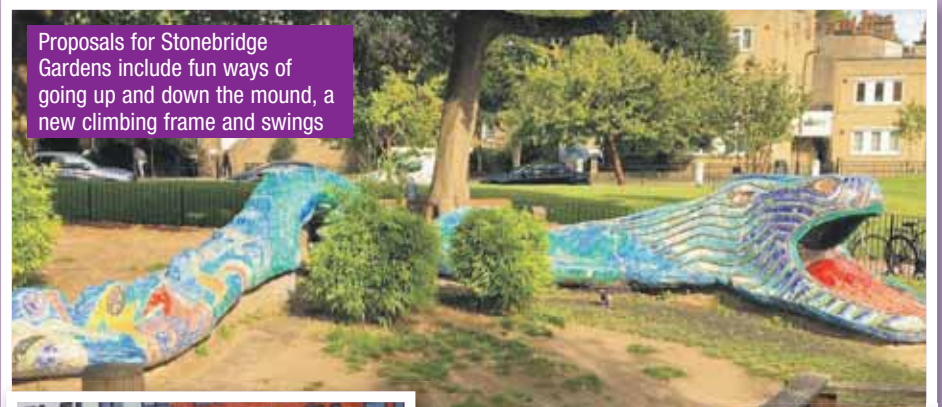
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THE existing facilities at Well Street Common playground need to be improved, with the play area set to be expanded.

The focal point of the proposed design is a play mound surrounded by a climbable stone circle with new seating and picnic benches. A wide slide and a tunnel are just two of the ways children will be encouraged to get up and down the mound. Other design proposals include new swings, a roundabout, a wooden climbing frame and meadow planting around the edge to give the feel of enclosure, without being fenced off.

Find out more about the Council's plans for Hackney's playgrounds:
hackney.gov.uk/playgrounds

FOR
MORE
INFO



Stonebridge Gardens Playground (aka Snake Park)

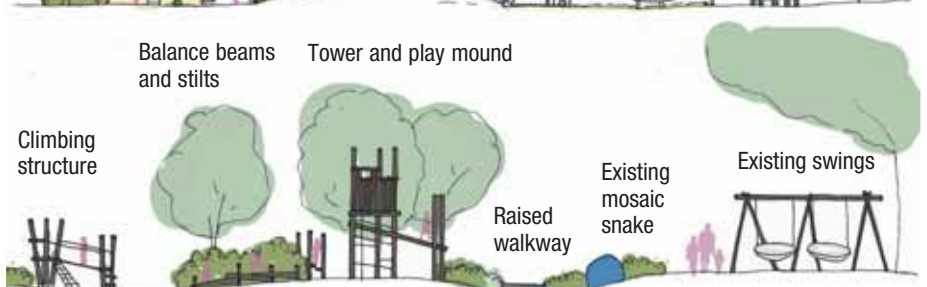
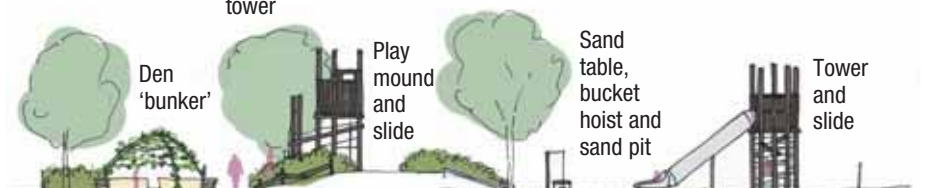
E8 4EP

STONEBRIDGE Gardens is a small park next to Haggerston Station. Its focal point is a large, blue mosaic snake, which is set to be retained. Proposals for the refurbishment of the playground include replacing the existing climbing frame with one that is structurally sound, new climbing frames for both older and younger children, a larger sand pit, a tall slide, a viewing tower, and a den area. The trampoline, basket swings and hammocks are all being retained.

A new raised walkway will create better access to the play mound, and there is also a proposal to install swings outside of the existing play area for older children to use.



Balance beams and tower





RESIDENTS are being asked for their views on how and where the Council should focus its efforts to expand its award-winning social housing drive to deliver the new housing the borough needs.

This new programme of building Council homes will be delivered directly by the Council through its in-house, cross-subsidy model, which has seen Hackney lead the way in building much-needed homes on Council-owned land without working with private developers.

The Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: "Since launching our innovative, not-for-profit Council housebuilding approach in 2011 we've led the way in delivering high-quality Council housing in Hackney – a model we're now seeing followed by councils across London.

"Despite the continued lack of Government funding, Hackney is building hundreds of genuinely affordable homes that are making a huge difference to the lives of local families.

"But we're not ready to stop there. We're committed to delivering the new generation of Council homes our borough desperately needs, and your input will help keep Hackney building and ensure that local people are the first to benefit."

MORE INFO

For more information, and to have your say visit: [keephackneybuilding.commonplace.is/](https://www.hackney.gov.uk/keephackneybuilding.commonplace.is/)

Help keep Hackney building

Have your say on a new generation of Council homes



In numbers building new homes

THE new homes will add to the more than 1,500 homes started or completed by the Council since May 2018 – despite the challenges caused by Brexit, the coronavirus pandemic and the continued absence of Government funding.



The Council's building plans have been boosted by £17.5m of Mayor of London funding, with proposals to use this to build an initial 100 social rent homes, approved by the Council's Cabinet last month. More than half the homes that the Council builds are for

genuinely affordable Council social rent, shared ownership or Hackney Living Rent, with some homes sold outright to help pay for these.

50+%

The amount of new homes for genuinely affordable social rent, shared ownership or Hackney Living Rent, despite the absence of Government funding

1,500

New homes started or completed since May 2018

22

Locations where new homes have been completed

£139 pw

The average rent on a brand new Council home

1/3rd

Of local incomes, the maximum rent on a new Hackney Living Rent home

196

New homes currently under construction

713

Approved homes coming soon



Britannia, N1

PLANS for the former Britannia Leisure Centre is now set to include additional Council homes for local families following Council investment to ensure the flagship Britannia project delivers much-needed social housing.

Subject to approval by the Council's Cabinet, the Hoxton site, which is empty after the Council opened a state-of-the-art new Britannia Leisure Centre overlooking Shoreditch Park last summer, will include 81 genuinely affordable homes – with an increase in the number of these being made available for social rent – compared with previous plans from 48 to 51. These changes also reduce the number of outright sale homes which are helping fund the wider Britannia project – including the leisure centre, social housing, and brand new secondary school – in the absence of Government funding. Find out more: hackney.gov.uk/britannia-site

Tower Court, E5

FAMILIES have now started moving into the first brand new Council homes at Tower Court, overlooking Clapton Common, in Stamford Hill.

The project, which will be completed later this year, will eventually have 36 new Council homes for local families and households who formerly lived on the estate. The homes have been carefully codesigned with the local community to ensure they are accessible and adaptable to everyone, including the local Orthodox Jewish community. Find out more: hackney.gov.uk/tower-court



Nightingale, E5

WORK on the first new homes at the Nightingale estate, next to Hackney Downs, has moved a step closer after updated plans that will increase the number of genuinely affordable Council homes were agreed.

The original plans agreed in 2017 had included five blocks with 52 homes for social rent, all set to be built at the same time. To ensure these much-needed new Council homes are built as soon as possible, these plans have been changed so that 70 new homes will be fast tracked, so work will start on them soon. Extra investment has also been found, meaning all will now be available for social rent. Find out more: hackney.gov.uk/nightingale-estate

Clapton Park, E5

TWELVE local families are set to be moving into brand new Council homes in Clapton Park this spring, with new social housing at Mandeville Street and Daubeney Road set to be completed in the coming weeks.

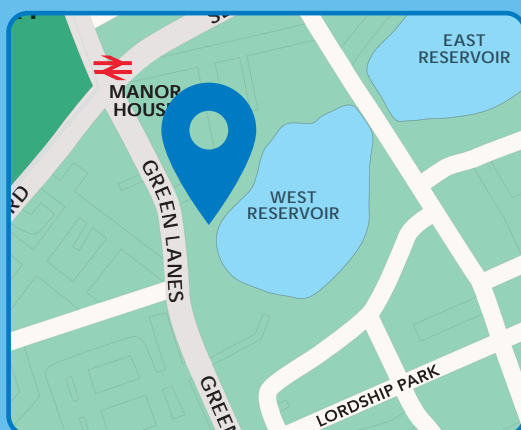
The two projects are the first homes to be completed in a new drive to turn underused Council land – like car parks and garages – into much-needed new homes, prioritised for those living close by who are on the housing waiting list. Find out more: hackney.gov.uk/clapton-park

1. Residents can help shape house building plans in the borough; 2. King Edward's Road; 3&4. Tower Court in Stamford Hill; 5&6. Work on Daubeney Road; 7. Mandeville Street; 8. Artist's impression of Nightingale Estate; 9 & 10. Mandeville Street before and after building work; 11. Artist's impression of the Britannia project; 12&14. Daubeney Road before and during building work; 13. An impression of Daubeney Road after the project is completed

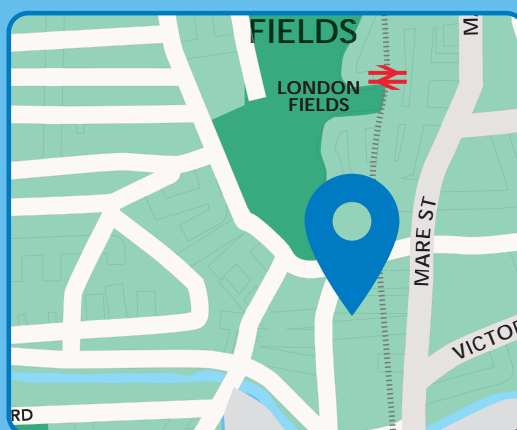


GET YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

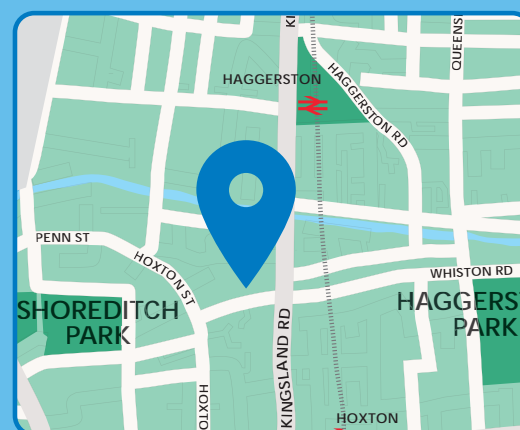
Find your nearest vaccination centre



**John Scott
Health Centre**
220 Green Lanes,
N4 2NU



Vaccination Centre
3a Bocking Street,
E8 3RU



**St Leonards Hospital
Vaccination Centre**
Nuttall Street, N1 5LZ

Book: nhs.uk/coronavirusvaccine or call **119**



Dr Tehseen Khan
GP at Spring Hill Practice

Find a walk-in site

Many pharmacies and vaccination centres offer walk-in appointments throughout London, find your nearest: nhs.uk/grab-a-jab

For more information on getting your vaccine, testing and self-isolation support visit:
hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-support
or call **020 8356 3111**

Hackney is one of the most diverse places in the UK. In this regular feature, we profile the borough's great & good or just plain interesting

hackneypeople

FIFTEEN months ago Josephine Casey, 83, from Haggerston, was the first person in Hackney to get vaccinated against Covid-19.

Today, two thirds of Hackney's population – nearly 200,000 people – have had at least one dose of the vaccine. The Covid-19 vaccine has changed the course of the pandemic, reducing the chance of hospitalisation and death by more than 90 per cent.

Gemma Davies, Clinical Lead for vaccinations at City and Hackney primary care network, has played a role in how this impressive feat came about.

She says: "I'm a nurse. I trained at St Barts and for a long time I did A&E. I did some corporate nursing, which is a bit more operational, and then, when the pandemic hit, I went back to Homerton hospital to work. I ran the Covid admissions ward in the first wave and then I did A&E in the second wave.

"In January last year I saw an ad for a senior job at the mass vaccination centre at ExCeL, and shortly after I saw the job I now have here at Hackney."

Gemma's job involves coordinating the logistics of delivering a successful vaccination programme. From working with GP practices and pharmacies, and ensuring there are enough doses of the vaccine to go round, to thinking of safe and innovative ways of getting residents vaccinated, and making sure everyone follows the correct policies and procedures.

She says: "Although we are delivering vaccines,



Gemma Davies, Clinical Lead for vaccinations at City and Hackney primary care network has helped vaccinate over 200,000 residents against Covid-19

the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes is huge.

"We vaccinated a lot of undocumented migrants and asylum seekers – it's really important to go out and run a programme that's about equality and fairness.

"We've also started doing some outreach in synagogues, special education needs schools and Afghan refugees in hotels.

"So much of my motivation was staying in Hackney as I'd worked the pandemic here. I wanted to do something positive, and vaccinations are a good way of giving back to the community.

"Hackney was hit really hard in the first and second waves. Homerton is quite a

“It's really important to go out and run a programme that's about equality and fairness”

small hospital and Hackney is a large borough.

"I saw the devastation Covid had in Hackney. Vaccinating people is the positive element: we don't ask for papers, we don't judge. So we get the harder-to-reach groups."

During the peak vaccination uptake, towards the end of last year, Gemma and her team had to ensure there was a capacity to do 800 vaccines a day.

She says: "In December, as soon as we announced you could get vaccinated

after three months and we started offering the booster, we had queues around the block. We did extended evening hours and we had lovely comments on social media. That was an absolute highlight.

"We also did all the housebound patients. We did about 1,600 in December and January.

"Going out to these really vulnerable patients is logistically really hard work. It's really important not to waste vaccines and to order what we need because we can't return used vaccines.

"But I think it's the best job in the world! People get vaccinated and it's their first step to freedom: so they tend to be grateful. When you become a vaccinator it's a joyful experience.

"We're going to reach 200,222 vaccines in Hackney in 2022 soon.

That's a milestone!"

Gemma believes we have now entered a new vaccination phase for adults. Most people who want the vaccine have already received theirs, but for the more hesitant residents the vaccine will now need to go to them.

She says: "The programme, going forward, is going to be really bespoke for the community. It will be about going out and getting people vaccinated who won't come in any other way.

"At the beginning it was the elderly and the vulnerable who were getting vaccinated because they wanted to keep themselves safe. And then we had the key workers who wanted to protect themselves and others.

"Then we had the youngsters who wanted to travel and, with the booster programme, we went full circle again.

"Children are now coming in because they spend a lot of time with their grandparents, or have siblings who are vulnerable.

I suspect we'll start seeing the holidaymakers soon."

Talking about vaccinating children and young people, how does Gemma and her team reassure five to 11 year-olds when they are getting their vaccines?

Gemma says: "The kids' vaccination programme is more emotive. Parents get a bit more worried. But the vaccine is very safe – lots of trials have taken place, all with positive results.

"The dose is specific to that age group – so smaller than the adult one – but still given intramuscularly with a smaller needle. Most children don't feel anything other than a little stinging feeling or a pinch. Most are surprised at how little they felt and feel very proud after they get it.

"We have set our children's clinics up to be very 'child orientated'. We would be remiss if we took a child into a pod and jabbed them.

"The space is decorated with balloons and posters, and we have toys and soft areas to play and do colouring in.

"Children get a goody bag after the vaccine and, for some children, especially those who are very nervous or have sensory or cognitive conditions, they often come and look around first to familiarise themselves with the area and prepare for the vaccine.

"All staff are highly trained and use distraction techniques to safely vaccinate this group.

"The mandate is to make this as a positive experience as possible. Vaccines are going to frame our lives, which it hasn't done before. People don't get vaccinated on a regular basis, but this might be the generation where all this changes."

Curriculum Vitae: Gemma Davies

	Born in St Bartholomew's Hospital; family lives in Hackney
1994	Starts nursing training at St Bartholomew's School of Nursing and Midwifery
2000	Works as a nurse in the Emergency Department of Homerton University NHS Trust (HUH)
2007	Moves to Essex
2015	Holds senior posts in East London and Essex hospitals
2020	Returns to HUH to work on the Covid Acute Admissions Unit and Emergency Department
2021	Works as part of the senior nursing team at ExCeL, setting up and running the mass vaccination programme
2021	Starts working as the Clinical Lead for the City and Hackney vaccination programme

MORE INFO

For more information on coronavirus vaccines in Hackney, visit: hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine

PREVIEW

The Gruffalo

6-8 April,
10.30am,
1.30pm, 4.30pm

A MOUSE took a stroll through the deep dark wood... Join Mouse on a daring adventure through the deep, dark wood in Tall Stories' magical, musical adaptation of the classic picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. All ages, free for under 12 months. Hackney Empire's audiences can also donate the price of a theatre ticket, or tickets, to give to local families, who can't afford a trip to the theatre. Ask the Box Office for more info. £12-16. Hackney Empire, 291 Mare Street, E8 1EJ. Info: hackneyempire.co.uk/whats-on/the-gruffalo/



EVENTS

To have your event published in the paper, fill out the online form at: bit.ly/HackneyEventForm

SLAYSTATION

15 March, 8pm

The new London night combines drag and video games. Hosted by Velvet Caveat, expect game-breaking drag performances, ridiculous bonus levels, and prizes. 18+. £12. The Glory, 281 Kingsland Road, E2 8AS. Info: theglory.co/event/slays/

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: THE BOOK OF DUST -

LA BELLE SAUVAGE

16 March, 11am

Set 12 years before the epic 'His Dark Materials' trilogy, this gripping adaptation revisits Philip Pullman's fantastical world in which waters are rising and storms are brewing. Broadcast live from London's Bridge Theatre. 12+. £13. The



Castle Cinema, First Floor, 64-66 Brooksby's Walk. E9 6DA. Info: thebookofdust.ntlive.com/

HEALTHY FAMILIES EVENT

16 March, 3-6pm

Families in the Well Street Common area are invited to a healthy families event. Families with children with disabilities, on low income, from the traveller community, lone parents, and from ethnic minority backgrounds are particularly welcome. All ages. Free. Frampton Park Baptist Church, Frampton Park Road, E9 7PQ. Info: framptonpark.org.uk

HARRY HILL WIP

16-19 March, 7pm

Comedy night Knock2Bag presents four hilarious nights of Harry Hill. 18+. £16.50.

Moth Club, Old Trades Hall, Valette Street, E9 6NU. Info: mothclub.co.uk/events

ZERO WASTE HUB

17 March, 11am-3pm

Donate items you don't need and take items you do for free. You can get your bike fixed; clothes mended; repair electrical items; refill food, bathroom and cleaning products; and donate your laptop. Free, register in advance. Woodberry Down Community Primary School Woodberry Grove, Woodberry Down, N4 1SY. Info: hackney.gov.uk/zero-waste-hubs

MAKE YOUR OWN LOW COST AND PLASTIC-FREE CLEANING PRODUCTS WORKSHOP

17 March, 7pm

The workshop will provide you with all the ingredients to



make a few simple yet effective cleaning products that you'll be able to easily make at home saving you money and leaving you with a sparkling home. During the workshop you will be taught how to make glass & mirror cleaner, lemon multi-purpose spray cleaner, cream cleaner and laundry powder. Free. Online. Register in advance. Info: bit.ly/hackney-cleaning-products

ANNA FIORENTINI SHOWCASE

19 March, 7.30pm

Anna Fiorentini Theatre & Film School students, aged 7-18 years old, are set to put on a spectacular showcase at Hackney Empire. Special guests include alumni Tahj Miles, Jessica Agombar, and Joseph

Marcell (who starred as the butler in 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air'). 4+. £10-£18. Hackney Empire, 291 Mare Street, E8 1EJ. Info: hackneyempire.co.uk/whats-on/anna-fiorentini-theatre-school

SATURDAY KIDS' CLUB AT CHATS PALACE

19 & 26 March & 7-9 April, various times

A new Saturday Kids' Club suitable for all the family. See 'Ugg 'n' Ogg and the World's First Dogg', by theatre Fideri Fidera, on 19 March (3-8 years); 'Little Red Riding Hood and Friends', by Booster Cushion, on 26 March (4-8 years); and 'Pinocchio', by Norwich Puppet Theatre, from 7-9 April (+4 years). £7, as part of the Council's 'Hello Again, Hackney' campaign. Chats Palace, 42-44 Brooksby's Walk, E9 6DF. Info: chatspalace.eventbrite.co.uk

THE BIG LONDON FLEA

20 March, 11am-6pm

The Big London Flea returns with over 50 handpicked traders. Hunt for personal treasures, rummage for bargains, and refresh your living space. 16+. Free. Earth, 11-17 Stoke Newington Road, Dalston, N16 8BH. Info: earthackney.co.uk/events

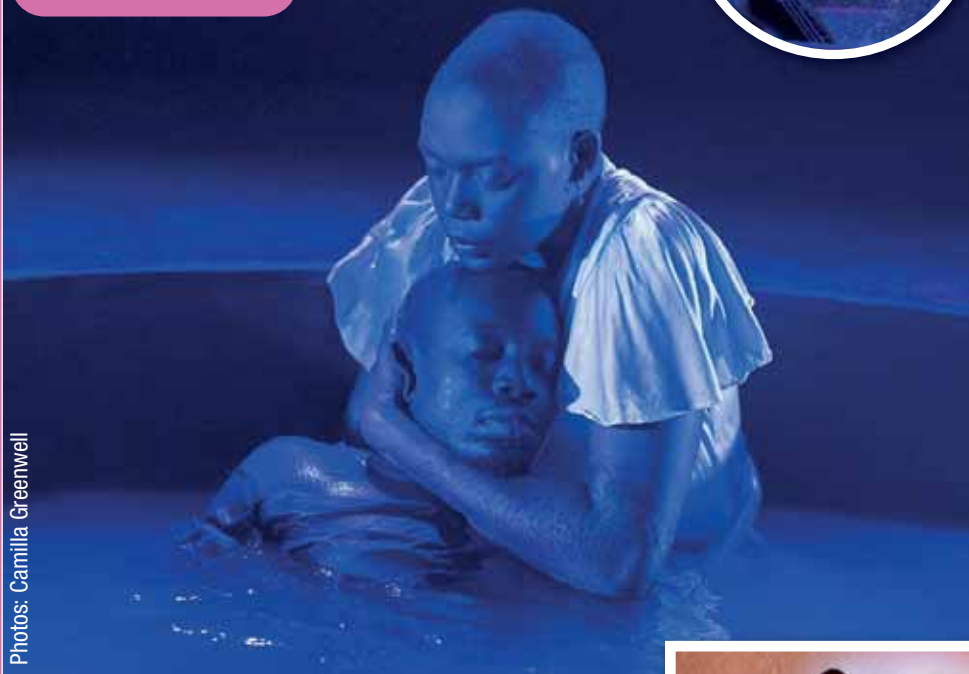
YES QUEENS / EVERYTHING I DIDN'T SAY

24-26 March, 7.15pm / 9.30pm

Female-led improvised comedy night, 'Yes Queens', is interactive theatre at its best, with the audience playing a key role in a night of games, scenes, sketches and songs. 'Everything I Didn't Say' seeks to change perceptions of what coercive control is and what a victim can look like. 14+. £11-13. Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, EC1V 9LT. Info:

what's on

PREVIEW



Photos: Camilla Greenwell

An Unfinished Man

Until 19 March, 8pm

KAYODE hasn't had a job for seven years. He has been cursed by a spirit from back home in Nigeria. He needs to get help. His mother thinks she knows what to do: Juju exists, spirits battle, and the witches and wizards of Lagos chant loudly in East London. Due to public demand, The Yard Theatre has extended 'An Unfinished Man' until 19 March. 14+. £13. The Yard Theatre, Unit 2a Queens Yard, E9 5EN. Info: theyardtheatre.co.uk



TEDx Hackney Council Libraries

EACH TEDx Hackney Council library event features a curated selection of pre-recorded inspirational TED talks around a theme, followed by a group discussion facilitated by educator, facilitator, creative and host, Hawa Power, pictured inset.

Square, E8 3BQ.

BLACK, AND GREEN

31 March, 6-8pm

Climate change is a reality. Despite decades of warnings from scientists, is it a case of too little too late in terms of international policy? What can we do now to stop the worst consequences? Are people of colour interested in climate change or is the plate already full? Join Rose M. Mutiso, physician Cheryl Holder, biogeochemist Asmeret Asefaw Berhe and David Lammy about this timely debate on ethnically diverse leadership on climate issues. Free. Dalston CLR James Library, Dalston Square, E8 3BQ.



SOUL FOOD

7 April 6-8pm

We live in a call-out culture, says activist and scholar Loretta J. Ross. She shares strategies that help challenge wrongdoing while still creating space for growth. Deb Willis challenges the mainstream narratives about black life and black joy, and Bozoma Saint John makes a compelling case to move away from relying on data when making big decisions. July Black reminds us to live our lives because there are no do-overs. Free. Shoreditch Library, 80 Hoxton Street, N1 6LP.

AFRICA'S THE FUTURE

24 March 6-8pm

Africa, the birthplace of humanity: join chef Pierre Thiam, Siyanda Mohutsiwa, Wanuri Kahiu and Adeola Fayeun on this engaging debate about Africa as the future. Free. Dalston CLR James Library, Dalston

For more info and to book, visit: tedxhackneylibraries.eventbrite.co.uk

shoreditchtownhall.com/whats-on

MAYA JANE COLES PRESENTS NIGHT CREATURES

26 March, 11pm-5am

The British-Japanese queen of the electronic underground Maya Jane Coles heads to Village Underground for an extended DJ set. 18+. £23. Village Underground, 54 Holywell Lane, Shoreditch, EC2A 3PQ. Info: villageunderground.co.uk/events/maya-jane-coles-presents-night-creatures/

MASTERCLASS - VEGAN ITALIAN

26 March, 2.30-7.30pm

Learn to make hand-made pasta using plant-based ingredients, a plant-based bechamel and ragu sauce, and delicious desserts. £125. Made In Hackney, Liberty Hall, 128 Clapton Common, Spring Hill,

E5 9AA. Info: madeinhackney.org/whats-on/event/vegan-italian

MACRAME PLANT HANGER WORKSHOP

26 March, 11am-2pm

In this workshop you will learn all the things that will enable you to make your own knotted macrame plant hanger. All ages. £35, materials included. Kingsland Locke, Dalston, 130 Kingsland High Street, E8 2LQ. Info: bit.ly/macrame-plant-hanger

THE HISTORY OF BROOKE HOUSE, CLAPTON

30 March, 7-8pm

Did you know that Henry VIII once had a mansion in Hackney where he reconciled with his daughter Mary? Find out this and more in the talk,

'The History of Brooke House in Clapton: From Henry VIII's Mansion to Mental Asylum'. Hosted by historian Sue Doe Free. Online. Info: bit.ly/brooke-house-history

HOXTON HALL'S #CLASS SEASON

31 March-28 May, various times

#CLASS is a celebration of the working-class identity.

At the heart of #CLASS is 'Hoxton Street,' a drama inspired by Hackney's dynamic local communities. Hoxton Hall, 130 Hoxton Street, N1 6SH.

Info: hoxtonhall.co.uk/event/class-season/

SAM PERRIN'S HISTORY TOUR OF ABNEY PARK CEMETERY

3 April, 2-3pm

Join historian Sam Perrin on a



90-minute tour of Abney Park – from its diverse permanent residents to the striking funerary architecture, as well as its historic dual function as both burial ground and arboretum since it opened in 1840. £7. Abney Park Trust, Stoke Newington High Street, N16 0LH. Info: abneypark.org/events

DIALLED IN

9 April, 12noon-10pm

Celebrating the South Asian underground with 30 artists performing across three stages. Musicians include Anoushka Shankar, Jitwam, Nikhil Beats, HIRA and KAVYA. Expect open decks, delicious food and chai. 18+. £38.50. Earth, 11-17 Stoke Newington Road, Dalston, N16 8BH. Info: earthhackney.co.uk/events

BOUNCERS AND SHAKERS

Until 26 March, various times

Performed against a soundtrack

of classic 80s pop, two plays 'Bouncers' and 'Shakers' will perform on alternate nights. On Saturdays both plays will be performed as a double-bill. 14+. £20. Hackney residents can get £5 off all tickets by adding 'HELLO HACKNEY' in the discount code box. The Tower Theatre, 16 Northwold Road, N16 7HR. Info: towertheatre.org.uk

DOPE

Until 27 March, various times

The debut solo show from .epoD, 'Dope' looks back at the artist's influences: hip hop and graffiti. Free. BSMT Space, 529 Kingsland Road, Dalston E8 4AR. Info: bsmt.co.uk

AYO AKINGBADE: JITTERBUG

Until 7 May, Tues-Sun, 10am-5pm

A new film by award-winning

artist Ayo Akingbade, who explores the sense of displacement felt by a teenage girl and her family in losing their Hackney Council flat. Free. Museum of the Home, 136 Kingsland Rd, E2 8EA. Info: museumofthehome.org.uk/whats-on



POULOMI BASU: 'FIREFLIES' AND SUTAPA BISWAS: 'LUMEN'

Until 4 June, Wed-Sat, various times

Indian artist and activist Poulomi Basu reflects on experiences of trauma – particularly patriarchal violence in 'Fireflies'. Sutapa Biswas' newly-commissioned film 'Lumen' reinstates the female voice in India. Free. Autograph, Rivington Place, EC2A 3BA. Info: autograph.org.uk

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 Hackney recycles



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020 8356 6688

 Hackney

FIRST stumbled across the Mabley Green boulder in 2019. There it was, a lonely lump of granite, sat in the middle of a quiet park in East London, a five-minute bike ride from my front door,” writes photographer Benjamin Hughes in the introduction to his new photobook, ‘Mabley Green: Class of ‘21’.

He continues: “This solitary rock, both sculpture and climbing structure, was transported from a Cornish quarry in 2008, the work of artist and climber John Frankland. It was entitled only ‘Boulder’.

“As a rookie London climber, it seemed the perfect solution to my quest – to try outdoor bouldering without the daunting prospect of a day-trip out of the crag-less metropolis.”

During the first lockdown, in early 2020, with gyms closed, Ben decided to make the Mabley Green boulder a regular climbing spot.

At this point, he had been climbing casually for about two years – mainly with his children – but lockdown made him appreciate the challenges of climbing outdoors more.

Ben says: “I took great pleasure in sitting up there alone in the morning sun, in peace, escaping the pressures of homeschooling and freelancing in an economy that had shut down overnight.

“But, at the same time, it was nice to have a few people to say hello to, new faces outside of the household, also intent on getting to the top of a big rock for no other reason than to see if they could.”

Looking back at why Ben chose to document his months climbing the boulder, he says: “Most of my personal work is documentary based and story based – I’m fascinated by subcultures. This is the first photobook I’ve put

Going boldly

Photographer Benjamin Hughes documents the climbing subculture, centred on the Mabley Green boulder during lockdown, for his first photobook



“I took great pleasure in sitting up there alone in the morning sun, in peace, escaping the pressures of homeschooling”

out – it’s a labour of love.”

In November, when a second lockdown was announced, it appeared the secret of Mabley Green’s boulder was out. At its busiest, there were sometimes 25 to 30 people milling around the rock in their bubbles.

Ben writes: “It was quite a shock arriving back at the green to find the largest gathering of climbers I’d seen yet.

“It had become a kind of Mecca for London climbers, young and old, indoor and outdoor. People travelled across town from North, South and West London – sometimes even further afield.

“You’d see them cycling

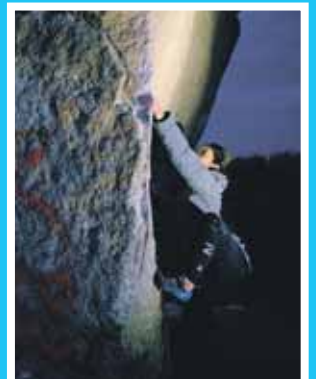
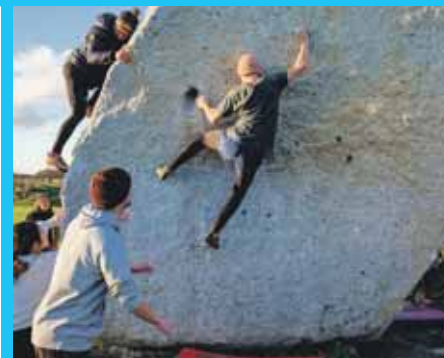
with huge boulder mats on their backs, battling winds and overhanging trees, drawn by the prize of solid granite and friendly faces.

“The community welcomed newcomers, and respectfully left others to their own devices if that was what they were after.

“For that month of lockdown, in the middle of winter, the boulder was where we existed. The lockdown class of ‘21.”

MORE INFO

To see more of Ben’s photographs, or to purchase the photobook, visit: BenHughesPhotography.com



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By Georgia Sherlock-Taylor

IRISH history is often reduced to a narrative of a solely male-dominated conflict, an all too common fate for historically colonised countries.

While such narrative is undoubtedly important for understanding the past, what must also be addressed are the absences that these narratives create.

In that respect, the London Irish Women's Centre (LIWC) in Stoke Newington, which ran from 1982 to 2012, provides a valuable counter-narrative to the history of Ireland and the Irish in the UK, and is a testament to the resilience of Irish women who migrated to London and created the community support that was not being offered.

Foundations

Many of earliest members of the LIWC cut their political teeth as part of Irish Women's Abortion Support Group.

This organisation, founded in the early 1980s, helped raise funds for women living in Ireland and seeking access to medical care, particularly abortion, in England. The medical procedure was prohibited in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland at that time. In fact, abortion was only legalised in Ireland in 2018.

These women were part of the generation of Irish women that moved over in the 1980s; according to the British Census of 1981, one in 10 women were Irish. And there were a growing number of young Irish women



living separately from the established Irish communities, including Irish centres.

The centres had a strong Catholic influence and were male dominated. For these Irish women, to challenge the status quo of what being a migrant from Ireland was, meant creating their own community and centre.

We celebrate Irish Heritage Month and Women's History Month in March by examining the pioneering work of the London Irish Women's Centre

The LIWC provides a voice

Rae Dowds and Brid Boland, two Irish women involved in the Irish Women's Abortion Group, co-founded the LIWC group in 1982.

The LIWC collective grew rapidly and by 1984 was holding conferences covering everything from the effects of immigration, war to the specific issues Irish women faced.

These open and deeply insightful conferences, as well as feedback from attendees, set out what the LIWC would do and how best to help the community they represented.

Rae Dowds spoke openly about how she felt about being 'lesbian and Irish or Irish and lesbian' and how both were equally as important to her,

but the Irish community often ignored the existence of lesbians. The centre welcomed every kind of Irish woman and attracted both young and old attendees.

The LIWC was granted funding by the Greater London Council and other bodies, which allowed them to purchase a building on Stoke Newington Church Street.

The centre opened in 1986, offering help and guidance on a face-value level, making the centre a safe space for women to seek help without judgement.

During its time the centre built a rapport with Irish traveller women, who had faced rejection and ostracism from both English and Irish communities.

'Breaking Ground'

THE documentary film 'Breaking Ground: The Story of the London Irish Women's Centre' (2012), tells the story of the LIWC from its origins to its eventual closure in 2012. It was recently donated to Hackney Archives by artist and filmmaker Michelle Deignan. For more information visit: breakinggroundfilm.com

For more information about Mind Yourself, email: info@mind-yourself.co.uk
For more information about Hackney archives, email: archives@hackney.gov.uk

1. Advert for the 'Hairy Marys' at the London Irish Women's Centre (LIWC) from the Hackney Women's Unit Newsletter; 2. The LIWC in Stoke Newington, taken as part of the Tape/Slide Project (Photo: Rio Cinema Archive); 3. Still from the film 'Breaking Ground'; 4. 'Rights for Travellers' book, held at LIWC (Credit: LIWC); 5. Flyer for the fifth London Irish Women's Conference held at the Albany Centre, Deptford, 1989 (Credit: London Metropolitan Archives & London Irish Centre) 6. A bookstall at the LIWC (Credit: LIWC)

This hard work was made possible by a devoted group of women – both employed and volunteers – and was incredibly successful in creating a grassroot project to empower women from traditionally patriarchal and overtly religious communities.

Changing course

The political climate in the UK from the mid-1980s to the mid-90s was an increasingly challenging one for the LIWC; funding cuts limited the reach of the centre as its workload increased.

Despite this, by 1996, the LIWC had supported over 20 Irish women's community groups, from community radio to anti-racism initiatives.

Behind the scenes, ideological changes were afoot, which would radically change the way LIWC operated.

The appointment of Tish Collins as director in 2005 signalled this shift.

During her five years in the role, fundraising became central to the core of the group, rather than project works the centre had been designed for.

In 2012 the centre made the difficult decision to sell the Church Street building to create funds for a new charity – 'Mind Yourself'.

The charity still provided advice and support but was no longer a solely for women initiative. By 2018 'Mind Yourself' was taken into the London Irish Centre in Camden, which continues to support Irish diaspora in London.

Hackney's executive **Mayor Philip Glanville** was directly elected by the borough in 2018. He is the political leader of the Council, overseeing the budget and all Council services. The Mayor holds monthly casework surgeries in the Town Hall. To book an appointment, email: mayor@hackney.gov.uk; or call: **020 8356 2212**. Residents are first encouraged to contact their ward councillor. Civic and ceremonial duties are undertaken by the Speaker of Hackney. The current Speaker is Cllr Michael Desmond.

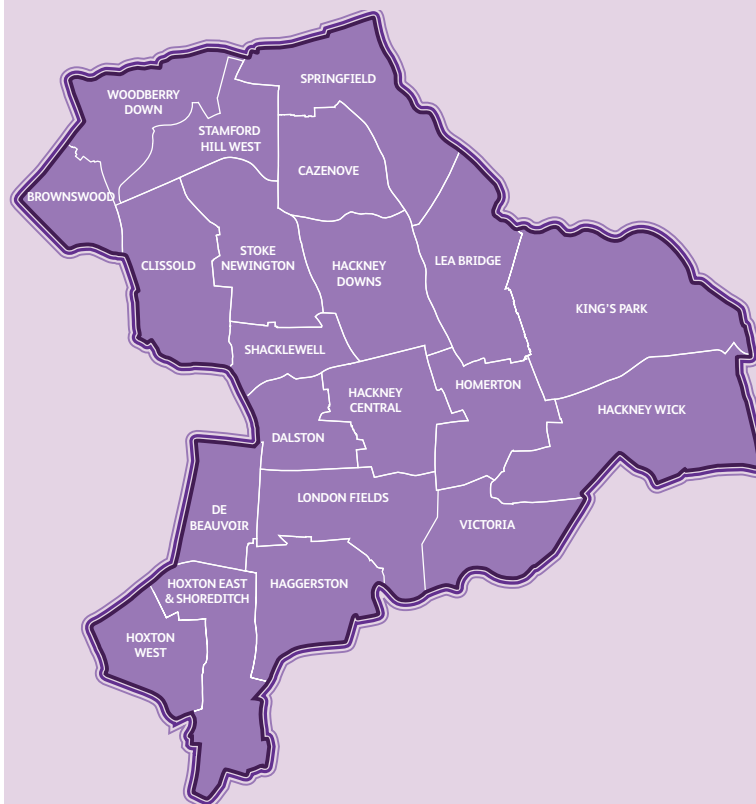


MAYOR PHILIP GLANVILLE

UPDATE ON SURGERIES

Many physical surgeries have been replaced by virtual surgeries due to coronavirus. For more information, email your local councillor using the format **'firstname.lastname@hackney.gov.uk'** or call **0208 356 3373** to arrange a phone or video call.

Hackney's wards in alphabetical order



- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. BROWNWOOD | 9. HAGGERSTON | 16. SHACKLEWELL |
| 2. CAZENOVE | 10. HOMERTON | 17. SPRINGFIELD |
| 3. CLISSOLD | 11. HOXTON EAST & SHOREDITCH | 18. STAMFORD HILL WEST |
| 4. DALSTON | 12. HOXTON WEST | 19. STOKE NEWINGTON |
| 5. DE BEAUVOIR | 13. KING'S PARK | 20. VICTORIA |
| 6. HACKNEY CENTRAL | 14. LEA BRIDGE | 21. WOODBERRY DOWN |
| 7. HACKNEY DOWNS | 15. LONDON FIELDS | |
| 8. HACKNEY WICK | | |

Councillors are elected by residents and serve for four years. The last borough-wide elections took place in May 2018. Councillors have a range of responsibilities, including helping to oversee Council services. Residents can contact their local representative and ask them to take up issues of concern. Generally they can help with Council related matters, but if the issue is the responsibility of another person or organisation, councillors can often point people in the right direction and tell residents who they need to see. Hackney has 57 councillors representing areas called wards – see map left.

1. BROWNWOOD



Contact Cllr Brian Bell on email: brian.bell@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Clare Potter on email: clare.potter@hackney.gov.uk

2. CAZENOVE



Contact Cllr Anthony McMahon on email: anthony.mcmahon@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Sam Pallis on email: sam.pallis@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Caroline Woodley on email: caroline.woodley@hackney.gov.uk

3. CLISSOLD



Contact Cllr Sophie Cameron on email: sophie.cameron@hackney.gov.uk
Contact Cllr Kofo David on email: kofo.david@hackney.gov.uk; or: **020 8356 3598**
Contact Cllr Sade Etti on email: sade.etti@hackney.gov.uk

Surgery: 2nd Tuesday of every month, 6.30-7.30pm, Stoke Newington Library, N16 0JS
3rd weekend of each month: roving surgery

4. DALSTON



Contact Cllr Soraya Adejare on email: soraya.adejare@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Peter Snell on email: peter.snell@hackney.gov.uk
Or call: **07941 179 129**.

5. DE BEAUVOIR



Contact Cllr Polly Billington on email: polly.billington@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr James Peters on email: james.peters@hackney.gov.uk

6. HACKNEY CENTRAL



Contact Cllr Ben Hayhurst on email: ben.hayhurst@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Vincent Stops on email: vincent.stops@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Sophie Conway on email: sophie.conway@hackney.gov.uk

7. HACKNEY DOWNS



Contact Cllr Michael Desmond on email: michael.desmond@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Anna-Joy Rickard on email: anna-joy.rickard@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Sem Moema on email: sem.moema@hackney.gov.uk

8. HACKNEY WICK



Contact Cllr Christopher Kennedy on email: christopher.kennedy@hackney.gov.uk
Contact Cllr Jess Webb on email: jessica.webb@hackney.gov.uk
Contact Cllr Nick Sharman on email: nick.sharman@hackney.gov.uk

Surgery: 1st Sunday of each month, 12noon, Trowbridge Senior Citizens' Club, 15 Lavington Close, E9 5HF

9. HAGGERSTON



Contact Cllr Ajay Chauhan on email: ajay.chauhan@hackney.gov.uk
Cllr Chauhan's surgery: 3rd Saturday of each month, 10am-11.30am; call: **020 8356 3188**;
Join Zoom Meeting ID: **872 2520 6320**; Passcode: **161202**
Contact Cllr Humaira Garasia on email: humaira.garasia@hackney.gov.uk
Contact Cllr Patrick Spence on email: patrick.spence@hackney.gov.uk

10. HOMERTON



Contact Cllr Robert Chapman on email: robert.chapman@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Guy Nicholson on email: guy.nicholson@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Anna Lynch on email: anna.lynch@hackney.gov.uk

11. HOXTON EAST & SHOREDITCH



Contact Cllr Kam Adams on email: kam.adams@hackney.gov.uk
Contact Cllr Stephen Race on email: steve.race@hackney.gov.uk
Contact Cllr Anya Sizer on email: anya.sizer@hackney.gov.uk

Surgery: 1st Saturday of each month, 10.30am, Shoreditch Library, 80 Hoxton Street, N1 6LP

12. HOXTON WEST



Contact Cllr Clayeon McKenzie: clayeon.mckenzie@hackney.gov.uk
Contact Cllr Carole Williams on email: carole.williams@hackney.gov.uk
Contact Cllr Yvonne Maxwell on email: yvonne.maxwell@hackney.gov.uk

Cllr Maxwell's surgery: 4th Saturday of each month, 10am-11.30am, Shoreditch Library, N1 6LP
Cllr William's surgery: 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6-7pm, Provost Community Hall, N1 7QX

13. KING'S PARK



Contact Cllr Sharon Patrick on email: sharon.patrick@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Rebecca Rennison on email: rebecca.rennison@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Lynne Troughton on email: lyne.troughton@hackney.gov.uk

14. LEA BRIDGE



Contact Cllr Margaret Gordon on email: margaret.gordon@hackney.gov.uk or call: **020 8356 3373**
Contact Cllr Ian Rathbone on email: ian.rathbone@hackney.gov.uk or call: **07890 654 068**
Contact Cllr Deniz Oguzkanli on email: deniz.oguzkanli@hackney.gov.uk

Cllr Gordon's surgery: 4th Saturday of each month, 10am, The Mount Community Hall, E5 9DW

15. LONDON FIELDS



Contact Cllr Anntoinette Bramble on email: anntoinette.bramble@hackney.gov.uk or call: **0208 356 3291** to arrange a virtual surgery

Contact Cllr M Can Ozsen on email: mcan.ozsen@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Emma Plouviez on email: emma.plouviez@hackney.gov.uk

16. SHACKLEWELL



Contact Cllr Michelle Gregory on email: michelle.gregory@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Richard Lufkin on email: richard.lufkin@hackney.gov.uk

17. SPRINGFIELD



Contact Cllr Simche Steinberger on email: simche.steinberger@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Michael Levy on email: michael.levy@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Harvey Odze on email: harvey.odze@hackney.gov.uk

18. STAMFORD HILL WEST



Contact Cllr Benzion Papier on email: benzion.papier@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Hershey Lisser on email: hershey.lisser@hackney.gov.uk

19. STOKE NEWINGTON



Contact Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas on email: susan.fajanathomas@hackney.gov.uk; or phone: **020 8356 8605**
Contact Cllr Mete Coban on email: mete.coban@hackney.gov.uk
Contact Cllr Gilbert Smyth on email: gilbert.smyth@hackney.gov.uk

Surgery: 2nd Saturday of every month, 10am-12noon, Stoke Newington Library, N16 0JS

20. VICTORIA



Contact Cllr Katie Hanson on email: katie.hanson@hackney.gov.uk
Contact Cllr Clare Joseph on email: clare.joseph@hackney.gov.uk
Contact Cllr Penny Wrouth on email: penny.wrouth@hackney.gov.uk

Cllr Joseph's surgery: 1st Saturday of each month, 10-11am, Hackney Central Library, 1 Reading Lane, E8 1GQ.

21. WOODBERRY DOWN



Contact Cllr Sarah Young on email: sarah.young@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Caroline Selman on email: caroline.selman@hackney.gov.uk

Surgeries: 1st Sunday of every month, 10am, Ben Simons Hall, Bethune Road, N16 5EB.
3rd Saturday of each month Start, 11.30am, WDCO Unit 2c, Rowan Apartments, N4 1FS.

A healthy eating programme from Shoreditch Trust

www.shoreditchtrust.org.uk



THIS is a recipe from Shoreditch Trust's community kitchen's cooking course, which the Trust is running from April. The sessions cover topics around healthy eating and shopping and discussing simple recipe ideas.

This tuna burgers recipe is a fast, healthy and easy beef burger alternative. It is great served with a salad and some herb mayonnaise.

If you would like to find out more information on the cooking sessions running at Shoreditch Trust, email: food@Shoreditchtrust.org.uk

Easy tuna burgers

Serves 2-3

Preparation time
45 mins

Cooking time
10 mins

Ingredients

- 2 spring onions
- 2 tbsps of oil
- 1 egg beaten
- 2 cans of tuna
- Zest of a lemon
- Chopped parsley
- 80g of bread crumbs
- Pinch of salt and pepper to season
- Wholemeal buns.

Herby mayonnaise and burger filling:

- 1 sprig of mint, chopped
- Mayonnaise
- Lettuce, rocket or mixed salad
- Juice of half a lemon
- 1 tsp of ground paprika.

Method

- Chop the spring onion and parsley

and open your tin of tuna;

- Drain the tuna of its oil or water and add the chopped herbs and onion;
- Salt and pepper the mix and add the zest of the lemon;
- Mix all together with the added bread crumbs and crack an egg into the mix;
- Divide and shape the mix into 4 patties and place on a plate. Leave in the fridge for 30 minutes;
- Whilst the patties are in the fridge prepare your herby mayonnaise by finely chopping the mint and mix with 4-5 tablespoons of mayonnaise, paprika and the 1/2 juice of a lemon;
- After 30 minutes, heat a pan with the vegetable oil and cook the patties for 5 minutes on each side until golden brown
- Place the cooked patties inside the wholemeal buns, spread the mayonnaise on top of the burger and add your lettuce.

More info

For more information, or to book, call: 020 7033 8529;
e-mail: food@shoreditchtrust.org.uk; or visit:
www.shoreditchtrust.org.uk/Food-for-Life

Shoreditch Trust

Have your say on Hackney's adult advocacy services

THE Council is looking at advocacy services in the borough and wants to make sure that the services it offers helps the people who need it.

Those who use advocacy services include older residents, homeless people, residents with mental health issues, people with learning disabilities, and those who are isolated or have little access to family or friends.

If you, or someone you



know, uses adult advocacy services in Hackney, have your say before 1 April to help the Council provide good quality services that

are friendly, fair, useful and provide good value.

To have your say, visit: bit.ly/consultation_advocacy

Help shape borough's green infrastructure strategy

THE Council is asking residents to have their say on the draft Hackney Green Infrastructure Strategy for green space.

The strategy seeks to increase planting in areas that suffer from a lack of greenery, be more resilient to the impacts of climate change and improve biodiversity in the borough.

It outlines how the Council intends to develop its networks of green

infrastructure that can deliver physical health, mental health and environmental benefits for residents.

It seeks to significantly increase greenery in areas where it is most needed, including: Shoreditch, Haggerston, Hoxton, Dalston, Hackney Central, London Fields and De Beauvoir.

Residents can have their say at: bit.ly/Greenstrategy



Meetings

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MARCH

14	Cabinet	6pm
14	Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission	7pm
16	Pensions Board	10am

16 Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 7pm

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN APRIL

6	Planning Sub Committee	6.30pm
11	Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee	6pm

Info: 020 8356 3316/3302/3312; or visit: www.hackney.gov.uk/council-and-elections

Sudoku

For solutions see:
www.hackney.gov.uk/hackney-today

Easy

3			7		4		
	1	9			6		3
7				3		6	
	7			2	8		
5		4			3		1
		6		1		5	
	9		4				7
6			2		1	8	
		3		7			4

Medium

3		2	9			8	
				8		1	2
	7	5		2			6
		9	2				7
			3		6		
1				8	2		
2				3		6	1
9	8		5				
		1			2	7	8

Easter and Passover rubbish and recycling collections

Friday 15 April – Saturday 23 April

Collections will take place one day later than normal due to the holidays. Please move your bins and green sacks to the edge of your property by 6am on your collection day.

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 15 April (Good Friday)	Saturday 16 April
Monday 18 April (Easter Monday)	Tuesday 19 April
Tuesday 19 April	Wednesday 20 April
Wednesday 20 April	Thursday 21 April
Thursday 21 April	Friday 22 April
Friday 22 April	Saturday 23 April

Waste is now collected every two weeks. To find out your collection date please go online.



Find out more:
hackney.gov.uk/rubbish

